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STATE MEETINGS

CONSENT DECREE

• OFFICERS' TALKS

• GUEST SPEAKERS

# CATTLE PRODUCER

• THE CATTLEMAN'S BUSINESS MAGAZINE

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FIRST AMERICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION REPORTS

# How Much Competition in the Meat Packing Business?

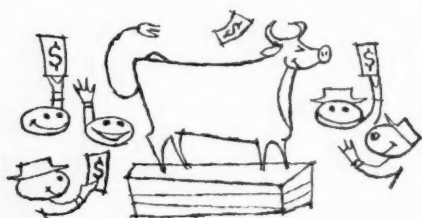
by BERT HORAN  
Livestock Producer  
MERCER COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Ask some folks about competition among meat packers and you may get this answer: "We don't think there's very much."

That's a serious complaint—because it's mighty important to producers to have lots of competition in livestock buying and meat selling.

Does the complaint really hold water? My own experience, observations and common sense—plus all the facts I can get from reliable sources—say "No".

For one thing, there's no shortage of people willing to bid on my livestock—if I give them the chance. There are 8 or 9 places to sell right in my own county. Or I can take my choice of half a dozen terminal markets.



In 10 years as a director, and now as vice-president, of the Illinois Livestock Marketing Association, I've had a hand in cooperative marketing from coast to coast. That experience convinces me that it's impossible for packers to "get together"—even if they want to. There are just too many of them.

U. S. Department of Agriculture figures show that there are more than 3,000 commercial slaughterers—outfits handling over 300,000 pounds of livestock a year. And there's probably several thousand smaller "butchers." That's more competition than you'll find in most other businesses.

But aren't most of those thousands of processors too small to count? Well, Department of Commerce figures show that the eight biggest nationwide packers do only about half (53.6%) of the business. The smaller fellows who do the other half can't be called "a drop in the bucket."



Think of your own local locker or small packing plant. Maybe it doesn't buy much livestock or sell much meat. But in its own neighborhood it can be tough competition for the biggest packer in the land.

Small packers buy livestock, too—you're never forced to deal with just one buyer. At the other end of the line, the salesman for a nationwide packer makes no hay with storekeepers just because his company is big. If they don't like his price, retailers can shop around among a dozen other outfits, large and small.



It's easy to see why so many people are in the packing business. It's a simple thing to get into. There are no secrets about dressing livestock and few patents covering it. With just a little equipment and some elbow grease, you're in business.

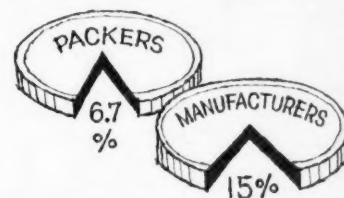
Besides, you can't have a monopoly on a perishable product. Any packer, whatever his size, has to ad-

just prices so meat moves quickly. Otherwise, he'll lose his customers to somebody else—and risk a big spoilage loss.

Producers sometimes feel that they get less for livestock than it's worth—because there isn't enough buying competition. But the real trouble is that we don't always give competition a chance to work.

Who's to blame if we don't use all the market dope put out for our benefit? Or if we don't shop around to find the best spot to sell? Or if we don't use expert selling help—marketing co-ops, commission men, auction markets, etc.?

Here's something I don't understand: If the packing business really is a monopoly, why are its profits lower than those of most other industries? In 1955, according to the First



National City Bank of New York, the 14 biggest packers netted 6.7% on net assets. But leading manufacturers of all kinds averaged a net return of 15 per cent.

This much is sure: Packers buy all the livestock we raise—but not always at the price we think we ought to get. But we can't blame that on packers, either. They don't decide how much livestock will be produced. Or how much consumers will pay for meat.

No matter how competitive they are, packers can't repeal the law of supply and demand.

Mr. Horan takes a longer look at packer competition in a booklet called, "Competition in the Meat Packing Business." For your free copy, write to Agricultural Research Department, Swift & Company, Chicago 9, Illinois.



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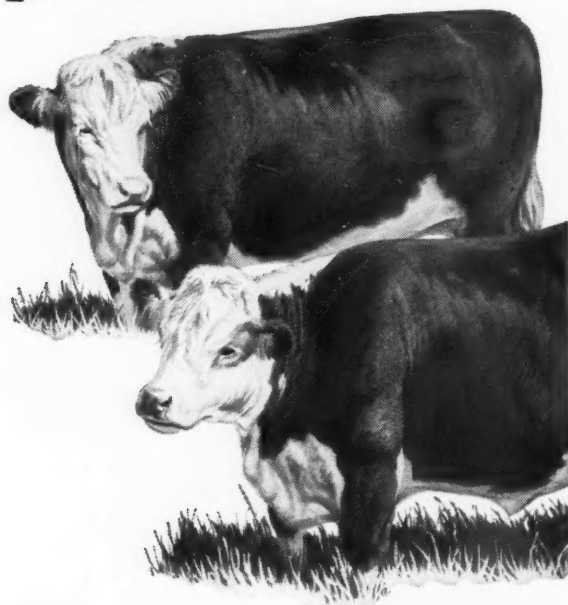
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## Letters To The Editor

**QUICKEST REMEDY**—Having a cold dry spell through this section, with hay all out of line with price of cattle. Believe if this drouth would let up, the cow business would get back on its feet a lot faster than a lot of federal interference could ever bring it back.—**Ken McDonald**, Pagosa Springs, Colo.

**CHANGE NEEDED**—If there is not some kind of change soon, there will be a lot of cattle producers no longer in the cattle business.—**Gordon McWilliam**, Diamond, Oregon.

**THANK YOU**—Your association is doing a wonderful job, representing the cattleman. I enjoy your monthly magazine.—**Donald G. Stearns**, Bowman, N. D.

(Continued on Page 35)

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# The Lookout

**Seasonally rising prices** are in prospect this winter for meat animals, with probable exception of upper grades of fed cattle, as marketings taper off from heavy fall movement. The USDA also expects prices of upper grades of fed cattle to decline as supplies continue seasonal increase, but they are likely to remain well above depressed prices of last winter. Hog prices will likely show greatest advance.

**Movement of cattle** and calves from ranges and pastures began earlier than usual this year under stimulus of drouth; through November this was generally above a year ago. Shipments in recent weeks have been declining seasonally and in early December were below last year.

Fed cattle marketings in November and early December were close to those of a year earlier but a smaller proportion were in the choice and prime grades. Nevertheless, prices for top grades of cattle declined substantially during this period.

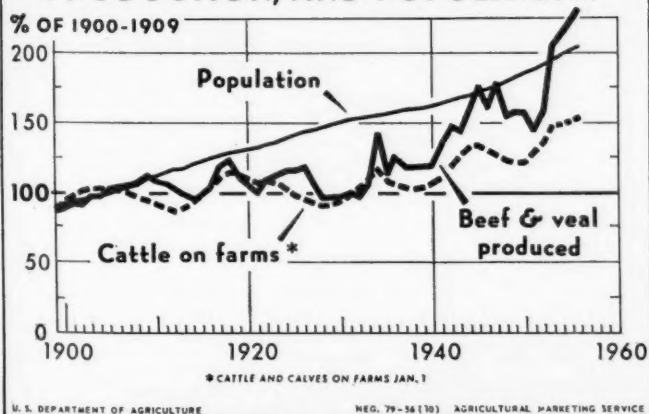
Prices of feeders and stockers and lower grades of slaughter cattle will likely rise only moderately this winter. During the same period prices of fed cattle will likely continue to decline somewhat. Fed cattle prices, however, will probably remain well above low prices of early 1956.

Lamb prices this winter are likely to share in the generally stronger level of meat animal prices and will probably maintain a modest margin over early 1956 prices.

**Consumer income** the best general indicator of the strength of demand for agricultural products reached a record rate in October. General economic conditions favor some further growth in income in the months ahead. Employment in November totaled 65½ million—a record for the month—although unemployment also rose sharply. The Labor Department reports that apart from seasonal layoffs, employers are planning to increase the number of workers in early 1957.

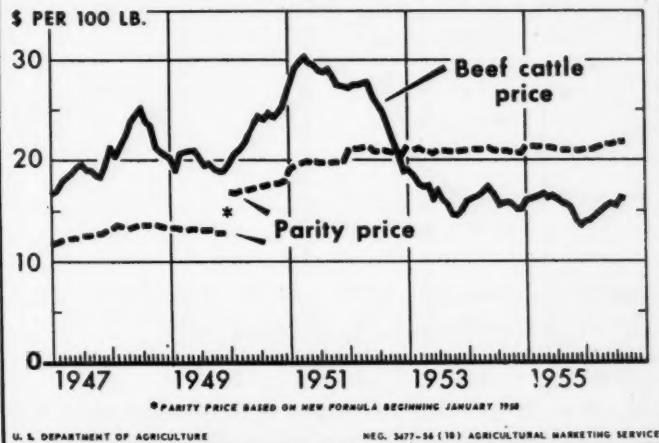
Wages are likely to rise as a result of increases already scheduled, and the likelihood of further pay rises for workers covered by escalator clauses. Business spending on plant and equipment—an important source of rising activity during the past year—is scheduled to rise to a record \$38 billion in the first quarter of 1957, but the increase will be slower than the rapid expansion of the past year. Construction spending in 1957 is also expected to set a new record, even though homebuilding probably will show little or no increase from present rates.

**CATTLE NUMBERS, BEEF PRODUCTION, AND POPULATION**



Prospective supplies afford little hope of a major cyclical recovery in cattle prices during 1957, says USDA. They do offer a chance that prices will stay above the lows of early 1956. Prices of fed cattle may stay above comparable 1956 prices through the first half-year but a price rise next summer equal to that of this summer is not likely, but weather and other things will affect trends. Prices in 1957 are expected at least to stay above their lowest points of 1956 and may average slightly above that.

**PRICES RECEIVED FOR BEEF CATTLE**



Production of beef and veal increased more slowly than the population from 1910 to 1950 but more rapidly after 1940, and for the past four years has been above the population line. It has outrun the trend in cattle numbers as production per head increased. Cattle numbers and beef production are now essentially stable. Little change in either is likely in 1957. (Hog production in 1957 will be less than 1956 and prices probably higher; sheep output will be about the same and prices slightly higher.)—USDA.

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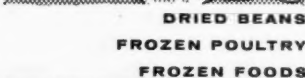
*United States Supreme Court in its Decision, June 11, 1956, upheld the conclusions of the Interstate Commerce Commission, in part reading:*

"That it is necessary and desirable in the public interest, in order to provide adequate and more economic transportation, that through routes, and joint rates over such routes the same as apply over the Union Pacific and its connecting lines, defendants herein, be established via Ogden or Salt Lake City, in connection with the Rio Grande, on granite and marble monuments, in carloads, from origins in Vermont and Georgia to destinations in the excluded territory in the northwest area, as previously described herein, and on ordinary livestock, fresh fruits and vegetables, dried beans, frozen poultry, frozen foods, butter and eggs, in carloads, from origins in the excluded territory to destinations in the United States south and east of a line drawn along the southern boundary of Kansas, thence the eastern boundary of Kansas to but not including Kansas City, thence immediately west of points on the Missouri River from Kansas City, Kans., to Omaha, thence immediately north of points on the route of the Union Pacific and the Chicago & North Western from Omaha to Chicago, including destinations in the Lower Peninsula of Michigan and in Oklahoma and Texas."

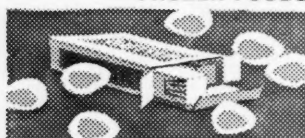
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## The New Bang's Rules

FOR THE PAST two months we have published fairly complete texts on the new federal regulations designed to help control brucellosis. But there still seems to be some misunderstanding as to just what these regulations mean.

They do not, as some believe, directly call for any brucellosis clean-up program. They simply set forth the rules under which cattle may be shipped from one state to another. For all that these regulations say, a state or an area need never become a certified brucellosis-free area. It may clean up or not, as it sees fit.

\* \* \*

THE NEW RULES are as moderate as can be expected in a disease eradication program. They do not affect steers, spayed heifers or calves under eight months of age; they provide for shipment of heifers or cows for feeding and grazing under permits similar to those used by many states; they permit cattle destined for slaughter to move under certain conditions, and, under the rules, provisions can be made to take care of ranchers normally operating on both sides of state lines.

The American National Cattlemen's Association,

meeting in New Orleans last January, okayed these regulations. It also urged an "accelerated calfhood vaccination program in range states in order to make complete eradication less costly when ultimately achieved."

For many years before that, the American National waged a campaign for a sound brucellosis control program. It opposed the impractical test and slaughter plans that were proposed as long as 20 years ago. It urged vaccination as a practical means to help control the disease long before the officials would recognize it.

BUT STATES and localities gradually began enacting clean-up legislation and imposing import restrictions, some of them unnecessarily strict and complicated. It finally became imperative that an attempt be made to have practical, uniform regulations. And the new federal regulations on transportation are the result.

They will serve, it is hoped, as an example for the states to follow—with the end result that all states may eventually have practical and uniform rules on the acceptance of cattle from other states.

## The ICC's Role

THE RAILROADS were granted a 5 per cent increase in freight rates on livestock last March. Just a week or two ago the Interstate Commerce Commission gave them another increase of 5 per cent.

During the past 10 years railroads have been given a dozen raises, one after another, bringing the aggregate post-war hikes to almost 100 per cent for this category.

And in the meantime the price of cattle has fluctuated up and down but today stands about \$5 a hundredweight below that of 10 years ago.

Originally the Interstate Commerce Commission was set up to protect the shippers. Looks as though its role has changed. Now it protects the railroads.

## Consent Decree

THE BIG PACKERS are asking the federal courts to release them from some of the prohibitions of the consent decree which was entered into by the "Big Five" and the courts in 1920 because of public criticism of the packers in those days.

They are asking relief from the decree's ban on processing and distributing many food and some non-food products and engaging in retail trade.

They are not seeking to change the clause which prohibits the packers from holding any interest in stockyards, stockyard terminal railroads or market newspapers.

\* \* \*

At the time of the signing of the decree back in 1920, the American National was heartily in accord with the clause prohibiting packer ownership of stockyards. As to the packers selling at retail, though, the association had previously been

passing resolutions urging the packers to get into the retail meat trade, and we are glad to note their change of stand.

SINCE THEN a great many changes in retail merchandising have taken place. In 1920 there were very few large-scale grocery or meat markets, as against the huge retail chains of today. And since then, too, other packers have grown up. Cudahy's petition says there are now five additional packers larger than Cudahy who are not under the decree.

These changed conditions undoubtedly call for a review of the law. But it is pertinent to comment, even though the question is not at issue in these cases, that the clause prohibiting ownership in stockyards should at all events be retained.

## Working Together

AS THIS ISSUE is being printed, the American National is nearing the end of its 60th annual convention at Phoenix.

In its lifetime thus far, the National has had a hand in setting up a series of lasting and important policies and legislation that benefit the industry in many fields.

\* \* \*

THE EARLY CATTLEMAN was pretty much of an individualist, but one thing he quickly recognized: alone, he could do little to protect his long-range interests to make his business grow.

Today, as then, the cattleman—no matter how popular or influential he himself may be—realizes that in numbers there is strength.

Independent as they are, the cowmen traditionally discuss, and even occasionally argue, about various points at issue. But the strength of the National will continue to reside in the "working together" factor.

# The President's Address

(Excerpts from annual address of Don C. Collins, president, American National Cattlemen's Association, at the 60th anniversary convention, Phoenix, Ariz., Jan. 7.)



Don Collins

AS THE American National begins its 60th year, it is important that we do not spend too much time looking backward—except to profit from the lessons of history. We should spend our thoughts and energies looking toward the future.

In our actions here this week and throughout the year, we must remember one thing: Today's solutions to our problems must provide happy endings for our children and our children's children.

Too often we are quick to accept a "ready-made" answer to a problem—something which looks fine in the pocketbook, or on paper right now. But too often, in doing so, we forget that those dollars today might cost us hundreds more in time to come.

For instance, I am sure that history will bear out the contention of many men that the "soil bank" and other support schemes now in existence in some phases of agriculture will turn out to be lessons of what it costs tomorrow to get a dollar today. Certainly the soil bank principle is fine—no good farmer or rancher dreams of damaging his land by using it to the very limit all the time. But it seems ridiculous for a government to have to pay men for what they should be doing anyhow. Some of us were doing them long before the politicians ever thought about soil conservation.

Let me go on—not damning supports and the soil bank, but using them as examples of what can happen when the politicians do the farming and ranching. I'm not criticizing men for taking supports and soil bank payments. I'm critical and very disappointed, that the situation was allowed to develop in the first place.

**Under the support programs—and the soil bank—a man would be a fool today if he bought a wheat farm which did not have allotments permitting grain to be raised. And that goes for corn, cotton and other crops.**

If that situation should be applied to cattle ranching, I am fearful that in five or 10 years from now a young fellow starting out in ranching would have to go shopping for allotments—instead of carrying capacity, economical operation, and all of the other factors which make ranching a success. Allotments on how many cattle he can run or

slaughter—not how many he **should** run, but how many he **can** run!

Besides, if the government went into that type of allotment arrangements—and it would be necessary indeed because control on production must go hand in hand with support payments—it would be the so-called "little fellow" who was hurt. The small ranchers, working with little leeway between profit and loss, could not adjust themselves. But the big ranchers would be able to adjust more easily and still find it profitable, despite the controls and allotments.

ONE of the biggest reasons the American National opposed earlier in the past year the Albert amendment to the soil bank was because it could hurt the small rancher more than it could possibly help him. That was the amendment which would have set aside \$50 million to provide a "grazing soil bank" for cattlemen. Well, on the face of it, \$50 million split among two or three million cattlemen wouldn't add up to much—and even if it were divvied up only among those in the drouth disaster area it still wouldn't be enough to do much good for anyone.

We figured that fencing alone would cost the small rancher more than he could possibly get back from a grazing soil bank—and the large operator more than likely was already sufficiently fenced to take immediate advantage of it.

My own situation was typical. I had already cut back my herd to what I prayed would be adequate to feed, and, of course, I had already fenced into pastures. So all I would have to do is seal a couple of gates—and I could have qualified for the payments proposed under the Albert amendment. And that would have meant that the government would be paying me for doing exactly the same thing I've done through every dry spell that hits our part of the country.

This plan to put cattle under a soil bank would have been the first step toward "allotment" of how many, when and how we should raise our cattle. There would have been no long-term reduction in cattle numbers—despite a ruinous run at the time everybody got on the gravy train.

If the plan had worked as well as its sponsors claimed, we would have had

several hundred thousand cattle hitting the market, just at the time the fat cattle market was beginning to show signs of strengthening after last winter's bad market. But just as in cotton, corn and wheat, the rancher would have hung onto his best land, fertilized the heck out of it—and just produced that many more tons of beef.

TIME AND AGAIN during this year cattlemen have said to me: "I don't know just what, but **something** has to be done." When I ask them what they want, or make a suggestion that perhaps they are thinking of price supports or government intervention, they say: "Oh, no, I don't want that—but **something** has to be done."

We've got to be so very careful that we don't let "politicians' logic" force us into throwing in our cards before the last round is dealt. It isn't "logical" that we should seek supports on cattle "just because the wheat raisers, the corn farmer or the cotton planter gets them." Two wrongs don't make a right. It isn't "logic" to accept supports and controls just because "we have to do something." That something might get us in more trouble than what we have now.

Every city guy has discovered "do-it-yourself." Perhaps we should remember that farmers and ranchers were practically the only practitioners of "do-it-yourself" before it became a fashionable fad—or maybe I should say before price supports became fashionable too.

So let's think about "do-it-yourself" in looking to the future in making decisions that won't cost us any more tomorrow than they do today.

**Certainly the future depends a great deal on rain. And a little "do-it-yourself" praying might help. But cattle numbers certainly appear to have leveled off—we're marketing the greatest number of cattle in history without smashing the market or saturating demand. It seems to me that at this very moment we can look back on the worst of it.**

But I certainly won't consider the battle won until I can attend a cattlemen's convention where the principal worry is about income taxes instead of hitting the bank up for another loan!

I think one of the things we should start considering right now in our look to the future is the problems we'll face when the rains do come. The pendulum of the industry could swing the other way pretty fast if everybody starts restocking at once. If this nation, faced with the worst drouth in recent history, can support as many cattle as we now have—what will happen when the grass comes again? Is this a problem, however, to solve by government bulletin or law? I believe not. It's a problem that only you and I can solve by our individual awareness of what might be developing and by our individual decisions to do for ourselves and the industry the best we can.

There are many "do-it-yourself" (Continued on Page 26)



# The Secretary's Report

(Executive Secretary Radford Hall here reports on the accomplishments of the past year and some of the problems facing the industry for the coming year.)



Radford Hall

**I AM HIGHLY PLEASED** in my first report to you to be able to tell you of a most satisfactory year for your association from the standpoint of finances and organization.

I believe it is a singular tribute to the organization that, despite drouth and low prices, you cattlemen of the nation have maintained your financial support to your organization. Of course, the office force worked a little harder and sent out twice the number of reminders, and we ended the year with dues paid of \$123,000 compared with \$123,300 last year and an actual increase in membership of 216 members.

Also there are fewer delinquent members at year end. By virtue of a few economies that we were able to effect, we can report an improved

financial condition for the association, even though our receipts remained virtually the same.

This year we have welcomed two new state organizations into the fold:

The Virginia Beef Cattle Producers Association and the Missouri Livestock Association became the 28th and 29th states to be represented in the American National.

Perhaps the best way to judge the effectiveness of the association's activities during the year just ended is briefly to review the accomplishments on requests made in resolutions a year ago.

**THE SOIL BANK** came first. This resolution asked for restrictions against the use of soil bank acres for grazing. Although restrictions were obtained in the final legislation, at the request of cattlemen in drouth areas provisions were made to allow emergency grazing of soil bank acres in drouth areas.

It might be interesting to note at this point that a "sleeper" amendment was injected into this bill in the House. By the change of two words, an apparently harmless clause was changed so that it could have been interpreted to forbid grazing on all public lands. We alerted the department and our friends in the Senate to the danger and those words were changed back in the Senate version of the bill.

**NATIONAL BEEF COUNCIL.** Here we urged cooperation with this organization's effort to obtain voluntary deduction of funds from proceeds of cattle sales for use in beef promotion. Late in the last session of Congress, such a bill was introduced with the endorsement of the American National. However, time did not permit action on it and the plan is to reintroduce it in the coming session of Congress.

**BEEF GRADING STUDY.** In accordance with the request expressed in this resolution, President Don Collins appointed a committee of eight to make a study. This committee held a two-day session in July, attended by a broad representation of feeders, packers and retailers. Chairman Cliff Hansen will report upon that meeting later on during this convention.

**WITHDRAWAL OF LAND** for Military Reservation. Pursuant to intention of this resolution, the House Committee

on Interior drafted a bill providing that any military withdrawal exceeding 5,000 acres would require the consent of Congress. This bill was approved by the House, but time ran out on it in the Senate. It should be introduced again.

**S. 680 TO GIVE STATES CERTAIN MINERAL RIGHTS** was endorsed, but no action was taken by Congress. The same is true of H. R. 6815, which was condemned by resolution, and H. R. 5088 which was endorsed. The latter bill had to do with the disposal of the LU lands. The disposal of these lands is not being pushed by the users and those resolutions, therefore, were not action resolutions but were intended only to outline the desired provisions of disposed legislation if it were passed.

**IN RESEARCH,** two resolutions requested increased activity on research, on anaplasmosis and mucosial diseases. The Agricultural Research Service is cooperating in effecting this. A third resolution requested an animal disease research laboratory in the West. The Department of Agriculture proposed such a laboratory at Beltsville, Md. The Senate objected to the location and requested the department to suggest another.

Secretary Benson named a committee to select a site with president Don Collins as chairman—again demonstrating the high regard the department holds for our president and other officers of the association. The site selected was at Ames, Ia.

Our resolution called for the erection of a laboratory in range territory for the special purpose of studying range cattle diseases. While construction of the laboratory at Ames represents a measure of success, nevertheless I believe we should keep sight of the goal of a laboratory for the West and in a few years we should make another effort at its achievement.

**FREIGHT RATES.** At this time last year the railroads were asking for a 7 per cent increase in rates. In accordance with a resolution, our traffic managers, Charles E. and Calvin Blaine, opposed the increase. The Interstate Commerce Commission granted a general 6 per cent increase but only 5 per cent on livestock. Now the railroads have requested an additional 15 per cent increase to raise their profits to what they consider adequate and a 7 per cent "quickie" raise to take care of increased cost in operations. The commission has already granted 5 per cent on livestock rates on this latter request. Hearings will be held during the next few months on the request for the 15 per cent increase. Our traffic managers are preparing to give active opposition.

**INVOLUNTARY CONVERSION.** This resolution supported an amendment to the Internal Revenue Act to make allowance for the involuntary conversion of livestock herds in drouth areas. Such an amendment is now law.

## F. E. MOLLIN HONORED



Greetings from hundreds of cattle and beef industry leaders were included in this bound volume of letters presented last month to F. E. Mollin, former executive secretary of the American National Cattlemen's Association (left). The letters recalled the nearly 51 years of service Mr. Mollin devoted to the livestock industry. The unique cover is of tooled saddle leather. Presentation was made by Former President A. A. Smith of Sterling, Colo.

**LONG-TERM LIVESTOCK CREDIT** was the objective of one resolution which instructed the legislative committee to work with credit agencies to establish a framework for adequate long-term livestock credit. Several conferences were held by the legislative committee with Department of Agriculture credit executives. However, no progress can be reported except that we may have them thinking along that line.

**BRAND INSPECTION.** At the request of the National Brand Conference, the American National endorsed the principles of an amendment proposed by that group to the Packers and Stockyards Act. Considerable work was done in Washington by representatives of that organization, aided by our legislative committee, and for a time

it appeared the amendment had a good chance of enactment. However, the brand authorities of several of our states registered objections to certain aspects of the bill and the movement for its passage collapsed.

\* \* \*

We often hear cattlemen comment that associations pass resolutions and then go home and forget them. From the foregoing, I believe, you can readily see that is definitely not the case with American National resolutions. They actually do form the pattern for much activity in the succeeding year.

The objectives outlined in resolutions are not always achieved in one year. Progress sometimes seems painfully slow, like the case of the National Livestock Theft Act, which passed the Senate five times, the House four times, and was vetoed three times before fin-

ally becoming law. That act enables the FBI to take part in the prosecution of cattle stealing cases, where the cattle are transported across state lines.

**THIS YEAR** is bound to be an active one for your legislative committee. With a Democratic Congress and a Republican administration, each considering that it has a mandate from the people, there is certain to be a head-on clash of philosophies on government supports and controls for farm commodities. Although it might be quieter than we expect with the fireworks coming in the next election year.

At this point, I would like to comment that the cattle industry has had its ups and downs—good times and bad times. The good times have a way of disappearing and coming back. The same is true with bad times, but if we ever lose our freedom in attempting to hurry the change from bad times to good, our freedom will never return.

Several pieces of legislation that will be of extreme interest to users of the public lands are ready to be introduced and will require the attention of the public lands committee.

One particularly objectionable special-interest bill would establish a wilderness preservation system and would freeze out all economic uses from large areas of public lands. If enacted in would represent a serious step backward from the multiple-use principle in management of federal lands.

Another proposal would establish federal-state land study commissions in the several states upon the request of the governors. Each commission would study the relation of federal, state and other public ownership to the total land area and the relative benefits of each. The commission would report to the President such changes in ownership as is deemed to be in the public interest.

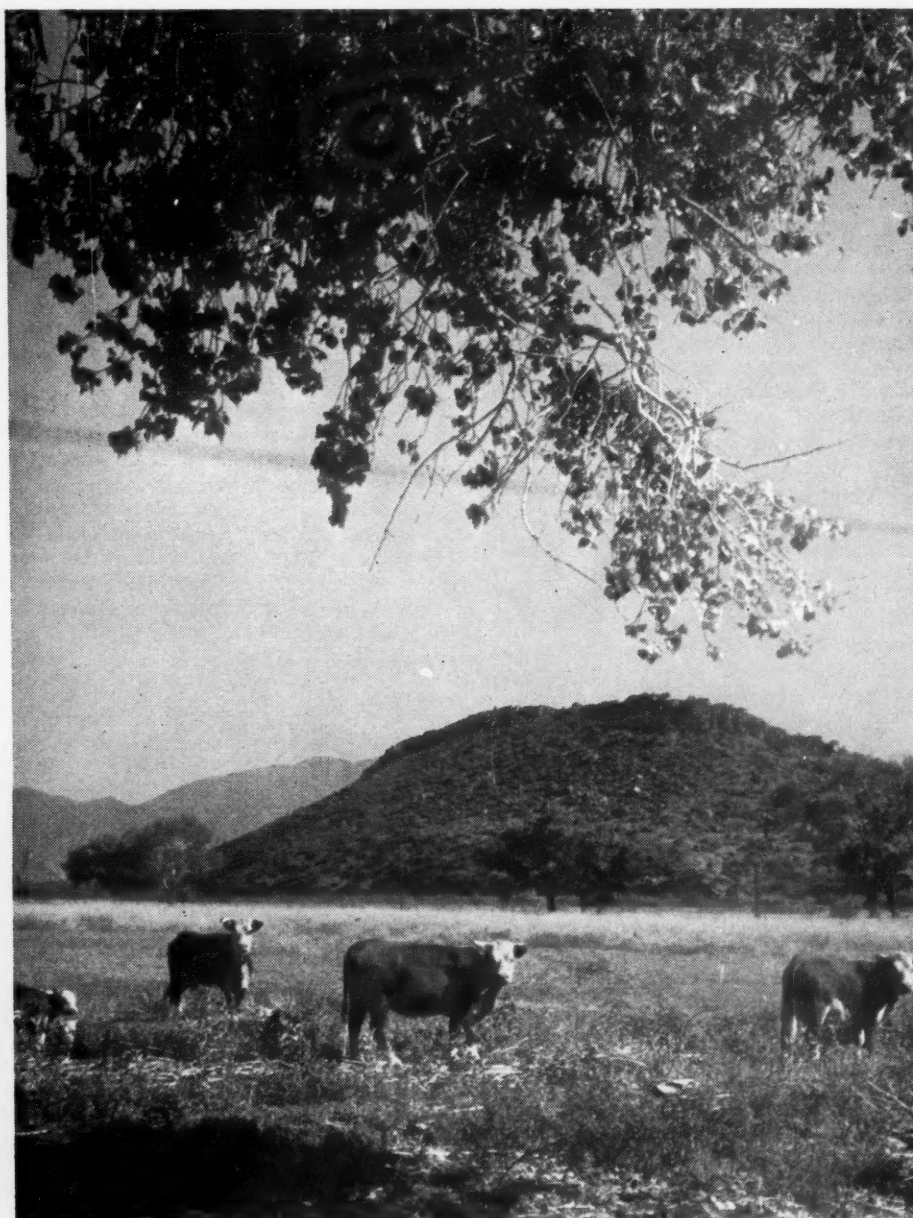
The bill needs to be amended to give proper recognition to established land patterns and uses.

The abuses, often at the expense of stockmen, of the old mining laws were finally resolved last year when regulations under Public Law 167 were issued, preventing use of the mining claims for other than prospecting, mining or processing purposes.

There are many other matters of interest to our industry which will be the subject of bills before Congress. Among these are: Amendment to the Packers and Stock Yards Act to be proposed by the national livestock auction association; transfer of P&SY jurisdiction over packers to the Federal Trade Commission; a humane-slaughter bill; an import quota bill which we will undoubtedly support; a bill approving OTC (Organization for Trade Cooperation) which we should oppose. These items will be the subject of discussion by various of our committees and I will therefore, in the interest

(Continued on Page 35)

## ON AN ARIZONA RANGE



Herefords on the Bixby ranch not far from Globe, Ariz., Steve Bixby is past president of the Arizona Cattle Growers Association, host to the annual

convention of the American National Cattlemen's Association in Phoenix Jan. 9-8.

(Dick Schaus photo)





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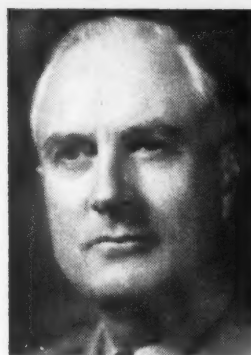
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# The Military and Beef

(Brigadier General Wayne O. Kester, USAF, goes into distribution, research and veterinary problems and explains the tie between the producer of beef and the military.)



Wayne Kester

**VETERINARIANS** in the Air Force have four major missions or jobs. First, we provide a complete sanitary and quality inspection service for all food of all types from its source until consumed in the air force dining hall.

Second is research support. We are teamed with medical officers and other scientists in all research dealing with food or feeding in any manner. Also on projects that involve the use of laboratory animals.

A third mission, and a big one, is that of helping the medical service, our physicians, in environmental health programs.

Fourth is our animal service, which is rather minor and deals primarily with the zoonoses; that is, the control of animal diseases of importance to man.

So, our whole military veterinary service is essentially a public health type service rendered as a part of the over-all military medical program. Our work is preventive in purpose rather

than corrective. The prevention of contamination, of hidden deterioration, of spoilage, of unsound practices and preventing the procurement of sub-standard, low quality foods. Emphasis is always on prevention because prevention represents money, food and man-hours, even lives, saved. Food poisoning of a crew in flight is a hazard that lurks in the mind of every aircraft commander.

Our greatest problems are overseas because there the health safeguards of our Public Health Service, the Department of Agriculture, the Pure Food and Drug Administration and similar agencies do not exist and our troops are not in their accustomed safe environment of high American standards of health and sanitation. Significantly, one-third of all veterinary personnel are on duty in overseas areas.

**Food inspection is a most important job, and more complex than meets the eye. For example, last year the army quartermaster general purchased 300 million pounds of fresh**

beef at various meat-packing centers here in the United States and delivered it to the army, navy, air force and marine corps in this and nearly 30 foreign countries.

Beef, of course, is but one of many food items. However, it is a very popular one and a very important one. Seeing that this beef and other perishable foods get onto the soldier's table at final destination safe, sound, wholesome and palatable is one of our jobs.

**YOU** may wonder why our food procurement and delivery chore should be such a complicated affair when it is such a simple matter for your wife in providing for your family. There are many reasons. One is numbers. We are procuring for a family of 3 million people as against your family of three or four people. Another is law and procedure. We are required to procure on contract from the lowest bidder in the United States. We are not free to pick and choose as is your wife. A third is geography. We must deliver to a military family pretty well scattered the world over as against your family in your home town.

For example, fresh carcass beef purchased here in Phoenix must be boned, cut, specially packaged, quick frozen and handled many, many times before it reaches final destination at some dining hall in Korea, Iceland, Arabia, Africa or where not. It will have been transported by truck, railroad, steamship, and in some instances even by airplane. It will have been in and out of refrigerators and freezers a dozen or more times and it will have been picked up and manhandled 40 or 50 times during its 3- to 12-month sojourn in the supply line. When it gets to its final destination it will likely be handled, even prepared and served, by native labor whose habits and ideas of sanitation and wholesomeness may be quite different from ours.

During this operation last year over 10 million pounds of foods of various kinds were rejected because they were found to be in insanitary or unsound condition when offered for delivery and over 100 million pounds were rejected because they did not meet quality or grade requirements. These rejections were worth about \$20 million in savings to the government. This in no way includes savings through health safeguards and good nutrition—far greater in importance, they cannot be measured in dollar value.

This professional surveillance reaches all the way from the veterinary practitioner attending your ranch and farm on through Department of Agriculture veterinary inspectors in the packing centers and through the veterinary services of the army and air force to our fighting men—a never-ending protective chain from farm to the military consumer's dining table.

We are involved in a good bit of research that is of interest to you, also. For example, one of the things we must know all there is to know about

## WIRED FOR SOUND



Cowboys of the Old West would stop and wonder if they came across this fellow on the range with his strange apparatus. He is Valentin Gonzales, cattle foreman on the Coit Ranch in California. Hanging from his saddle is a shortwave radio transmitter—a

device which has helped shorten the distances in many still wide open spaces in the West. Here a report is being made to headquarters that a round-up has been completed. (Wide World photo)



is radiobiology—the aspects of nuclear radiation, fallout and pickup that may affect people, foods and our food animals.

Fortunately a group of military veterinarians and other scientists have been working on these problems for several years and now pretty well understand the various means and channels for exposure, also the effects of nuclear radiation. We also understand protective measures, safety devices, tolerances, medicinal dosages, etc., in connection with the use of such energy.

**RESEARCH** in biological warfare defense is another area of mutual interest. The fact that most of the recognized possible biological warfare agents may affect animals or may be transmitted through foods is particularly significant. In fact, it is a good guess that if an enemy were ever to attempt a biological warfare attack on this country it would be against our livestock food producing industry. It is an even better guess than if such an attack should come to pass some alert veterinarian would be the first to detect it.

It was members of the Army Veterinary Corps who developed a vaccine for rinderpest during World War II at a time when it was apparent that the enemy might be considering the use of the virus of this devastating disease as an agent on our highly vulnerable cattle population. Not only was a vaccine perfected, but it was produced and stockpiled in sufficient quantities to safeguard the cattle population of this country.

Research and development in an entirely different direction now makes it possible to serve fluid milk for drinking purposes to American troops stationed the world over. At the end of World War II only here in the United States was there a safe fresh milk supply available to our men in uniform.

Our work in the military in connection with animals is more important than generally supposed. It is one primarily of the prevention and control of diseases among animals in and around our military communities, principally diseases of small animals that might have a public health significance although large animals may be involved as well.

Disease situations in foreign lands make a more complicated problem because there we must not only consider community health but in some instances must also safeguard herds and flocks producing our own food supply. Our responsibility has become more and more acute with the expansion of our highly mobile global air force. Uppermost in the mind of every veterinarian connected with this air force is the thought that an exotic disease devastating to our animal population could hitchhike into this country on an airplane overnight.

So you can see that you have much of common interest with your veterinarian in the service. Not only is he involved in protecting the health and

welfare of so many of your sons and daughters in uniform, he is also a key figure in safeguarding your cattle industry here at home as well as your products in the market place and your interests with the world's largest beef customer and potential consumer.

There have been vast changes in the veterinary profession in recent years just as there have been in the cattle business.

The best veterinary schools in the world are here in this country and Canada—19 of them turning out about a thousand graduates a year. These graduates are thoroughly schooled in the basic and medical sciences on a level comparable to the schooling received by doctors of medicine—the difference being principally that the veterinarian studies all animals whereas the physician is concerned only with the human animal.

These students must spend a minimum of six years in specialized college work in order to graduate and must then pass a professional examination before they are licensed to practice in any state. Many spend seven or eight years in college and have additional degrees in related sciences.

**THE** foregoing description fits the majority of the 18,000 veterinarians in this country today because more than half of them have been graduated since academic standards were revised upward some 10 to 15 years ago. The point is that this country is no longer confronted with a shortage of veterinarians. We now have and will continue to have a mature, vigorous, well trained and well qualified veterinary profession.

The problem is how can the cattleman and the cattle industry derive the most benefit from this growing profession and how can the two more closely join in mutual interests? There are two ways in which this may be done.

One is through the application of modern veterinary science as practiced on farms and ranches. This is largely a local and an individual problem. Solutions vary widely all the way from excellent service to no service at all.

The use of a resident veterinarian is becoming a more common and profitable arrangement. The employment of a part-time veterinarian on contract with a view towards practicing more preventive medicine, preventing disease and injuries and entering into management consultation rather than simply treating the sick animal is becoming more popular, and rightly so.

In marginal areas where the livestock population might not support a practitioner owners have sometimes pooled resources and assisted a young veterinarian in building a hospital or otherwise supported him as his practice grew and developed in their community. This may be the best, if not the only, solution in much of our range cattle country.

(Continued on Page 32)

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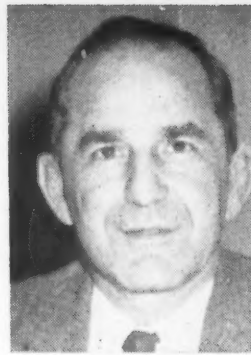
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# The Marketing System

(M. J. Cook, vice-president of the Chicago Union Stock Yard and Transit Co., is opposed to major changes in the Packers and Stock Yards Act; favors spreading market receipts.)



M. J. Cook

**THIRTY-FIVE YEARS** ago, at the time the livestock and meat packing industries of the country were made subject to federal regulation by passage of the Packers and Stockyards Act, the bulk of the livestock marketed moved from producers to packer or feeder buyers through approximately 60 "terminal stockyards" or central competitive markets.

At that time, there were a few auction sale barns operating in the southeastern part of the country, but the volume they handled was small. There were some packers who bought livestock directly from producers, but most packing plants were located adjacent to terminal stockyards and obtained their livestock supplies from such markets.

The marketing picture has changed a lot since 1921. Much of the volume that formerly flowed through the central competitive markets, particularly of hogs and sheep, now moves from producers to buyers via auction sale barns or packer buying stations.

Today, there is hardly a sizeable

town in the Midwest that doesn't have a local sale barn or a packer buying station or both. Until recent years, the direct purchases of packers were confined principally to hogs and sheep, but, if present buying practices of some packers are indicative of the industry's future intentions, we can expect more and more packer buyers to be going to the country to buy cattle.

To understand fully the effect further decentralization in livestock marketing may have on our system of central competitive markets, which for nearly a century have served producers as their price basing markets, we should probably review briefly the history of those markets and the way they were intended to function.

The courts, in decisions recognizing the essentiality of the central markets, defined them as "great national public utilities." In their decisions the courts called attention to the fact that in livestock marketing two opposing groups are involved: commission men obligated to sell producers' livestock at the high-

est prices obtainable, and buyers committed to purchasing such livestock as cheaply as it can be bought.

Courts have held it to be the function of the operators of the central markets to provide facilities where the expert salesmen for producers (commission men) can meet—on equal footing—the expert buyers for packers and, through open competitive bidding, establish fair values for livestock.

**ONE OF THE TRUTHS** I learned from my association of more than 25 years with enforcement of the provisions of the Packers and Stockyards Act is that prices at which livestock is sold throughout the United States, no matter how isolated the point at which the trading on such livestock is conducted, are based to some extent on prices established at the central competitive markets.

Although the decrease in the volume of livestock handled at the central markets has not been sufficient to impair their usefulness to producers as their price basing markets, thoughtful producers are beginning to wonder if further decentralization in livestock marketing may not have such an effect.

Certainly, the central markets can function most effectively as producers' price basing markets only if they receive a sufficiently large volume of livestock to attract to the markets, and retain there, at all times, maximum buying support.

Most central markets have noted a tendency on the part of producers in recent years to consign livestock, particularly cattle, in larger volume on certain days of the market week, usually Monday and Wednesday, than on other days. In some instances excessively heavy cattle runs on a Monday have been responsible for wider price declines than prevailing supply and demand factors would warrant.

A more even distribution of livestock receipts between the market days of the week would undoubtedly react to the benefit of producers pricewise and, in many instances, would permit stockyard operators and commission firms to provide producers with better stockyard and selling services.

The obtaining of a more orderly flow of livestock to the central competitive markets is recognized by producers' associations and market interests as a mutual problem which, with the cooperation of buyers, can be solved. As a matter of fact, there are under way at the present time at several central markets programs designed to bring about gradually increased cattle receipts on Tuesday and Thursday.

The programs which appear to have made the most progress to date have been those directed toward attracting greater volume on low receipt days, not through promotional advertising, but by demonstrating greater buying support on those market days and

## PRESENTS ANCA PLAQUE FOR BEEF JUDGING



Albert K. Mitchell, Albert N. M., presents plaque in behalf of American National Cattlemen's Association to University of Wisconsin team for taking top place in beef judging in the intercollegiate meat judging contest at the International Live Stock Exposition in Chicago. Mr. Mitchell is a past president of the American National. The contest was sponsored by the National Live Stock and Meat Board.



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thereby gradually rebuilding producers' confidence. This is a project which should have the support of all producer organizations. I am happy to say that at Chicago we have the wholehearted cooperation in our program of both packers and order buyers.

**T**HERE have been several suggestions made within the past year that the Packers and Stockyards Act be amended. Because of my prior experience with administration of the act, proponents and opponents have asked for my reaction to the various proposals.

First of all, let me say I do not believe major amendments to the act are necessary or desirable. The men who authored the act back in 1921 were men who had had years of experience in dealing with livestock production and marketing problems and, in my judgement, they did a remarkably thorough job in writing the statute.

I can say from experience, that its provisions are sufficiently broad to permit appropriate corrective actions to be taken, whenever the interests of livestock producers or the general public require. At the same time, the act does not impose upon the industries subject to regulation unnecessary requirements or restrictions.

The act now provides that stockyards and commission firms subject to its provisions must furnish reasonable facilities and services and, in return therefor, may assess only reasonable charges. A producer can market a \$300 steer at any central competitive market today at a combined yardage and commission cost of slightly more than \$2. Feed at central markets is sold to producers at inventory cost plus per hundred-weight margins approved by the Department of Agriculture as being reasonable for handling and storage.

Compared to costs incurred in marketing other farm products, or in marketing livestock through competing methods of marketing, yardage and commission charges at central markets are low. In enforcing the act, we required that existing inadequacies in facilities and services be remedied before we approved proposed increases in rates. I am confident that the same policy will be followed in future administration of the act.

This highly desirable condition, from the producers' standpoint, would not exist if the rate regulatory authority of the Secretary of Agriculture was eliminated by amendment of the act.

**A** PUBLIC MARKET, in order to be subject to federal supervision, must have an area of 20,000 square feet or more of pen space available for the handling of livestock. Many local yards, handling such a small volume that their operations have no real effect upon the establishment of fair values for livestock, have had to be posted because of this square footage requirement.

A more practical approach would

be to substitute for the square footage requirement a provision whereby any stockyard eligible for posting under the act would have to handle annually 25,000 head or more of livestock. I understand a proposal to amend the act in this respect will be submitted.

There have also been proposals in recent months that the enforcement of the packer provisions of the act be transferred from the Department of Agriculture to some other federal agency. I do not believe this action is necessary or desirable. If, as some producers believe, the packer provisions of the act have not been as aggressively enforced as have other provisions, the fault lies not in the statute or with the agency charged directly with the act's enforcement.

The Packers and Stockyards Branch of the Department of Agriculture is best qualified to enforce the packer provisions of the Act. In my judgment, it would be a serious mistake to start parceling out to different agencies the responsibility of enforcing the various sections of the act, all of which are closely interrelated. Given a comparatively small increase in appropriations, the branch can do the most effective and efficient job.

### Spain To Buy 1,000 Cattle

A letter from Spain advises that the Spanish Ministry is interested in importing initially 1,000 Hereford, Shorthorn and Angus cattle. It wants information: (1) on characteristics and sources of the cattle; (2) average price f.o.b. for "1½ and 2 year old selected pregnant cows and bulls of same age of high quality with pedigree;" (3) medium price CIF (cost, insurance, freight) Spanish port, arranging shipment if possible in a boat filled to capacity; (4) name and information about exporting ranch; (5) best time to buy, which would be done by a commission sent to U.S.; (6) any other pertinent data.

Our correspondent is Jose Martinez Jimenez, Junta Coordinadora de la Mejora Ganadera, Ministerio de Agricultura, Po de Atocha 1, Madrid, Spain. The American National has also passed this information on to the several breed associations representing the breeds mentioned.

### ACTION ON PLAINS PROGRAM

Secretary Benson announced that he is taking immediate steps to further implement the Great Plains program as provided under Public Law 1021 which was signed by the President on August 7, 1956. This law enables the USDA to enter into conservation program contracts with ranchers and farmers in the Great Plains states for periods up to 10 years. Provisions of the law will apply in counties designated by the secretary in Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas and Wyoming.


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There's a simple reason for the expression "end of your rope," as National Live Stock Producer explains it: Farmers used to stake cows and horses out to pasture on a rope, and they grazed in a circle around the stake until they came to the end of the rope.



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**Free CATALOG**  
**Western Seed Co**  
1425 15th St., Denver 2, Colorado

# Food Industry Developments

(Paul S. Willis, president of the Grocery Manufacturers of America, sees bright future for food industry.)



Paul S. Willis

**T**HE fabulous growth of the food industry in recent years is due in large part to the additional values which farmers, ranchers, food manufacturers and distributors have provided to the homemaker.

Total consumption expenditures for food have risen from about \$16 billion in 1939 to more than \$70 billion in 1956. Indications are that expenditures may exceed \$73 billion in 1957. These figures reflect not only the increasing physical volume of food, but the wider and year-around variety, the new and improved products and the many "plus values" of nutrition, convenience and service which farmers, ranchers, manufacturers and distributors have teamed up to provide the American consumer.

Here is another way of looking at this improvement in eating. If people were content today to buy only the same types and quantities of food per person they bought pre-war, they

could buy the equivalent of that outdated grocery basket at today's prices for only 16 per cent of income. The difference between that and the 25 per cent they are actually spending represents the "additional values" which they want and which we in the industry have provided.

The "plus" growth of the food industry since 1939 suggests that we must have done some extra things which were most effective in broadening the market.

Some of these extras include the availability, through research, of the many new improved products; better advertising; better selling; more and better sales promotions and improved merchandising by both manufacturers and distributors; the attractive self-service stores with their great variety of products, attractive displays and freedom of choice in consumer purchasing.

Others include: The consumer's greater knowledge of nutrition; her growing recognition of the value of eating balanced meals; and her appreciation of the "built-in-kitchen-services" in modern, convenient, ready-to-serve foods. All have contributed to this tremendous growth in sales.

**AS TO THE MATTER** of "price spread"—the difference between prices farmers receive and prices paid by consumers at the grocery store—a main challenge of the food industry is to get the American people to see "spread" in its true economic role as a positive, value-adding, market-creating force, and to see how they benefit therefrom.

Without spread, not only manufacturers and distributors, but farmers as well would be out of business. Our steak would be standing around on a ranch or in a feedlot; our cheese and butter would be milk in a pail in Wisconsin; and our breakfast juice would be on the trees in a Florida or California orange grove.

**Without spread there would be no food business as we know it. The food business would consist of local farmers selling direct to local consumers.**

Spread is money paid out for a series of essential processes and services performed along the life line of America between food on the farm and food on the table. It provides useful employment directly to at least five million workers and indirectly to several million more. It helps build markets for farm products. It is an integral part of our mass production-mass distribution system. It is a logical reflection of the growth of the American economy with its great degree of specialization, its greater services to meet consumer needs and its high standard of living.

The industry will be able to further broaden the market for food, provided we work both harder and smarter on a teamwork basis.

Looking at the next 10 years, let me tell you why I am optimistic. The first reason is the sheer pressure of population. By 1967 estimates are that we may well have a population of 200 million people. To this fact should be added the rising trend of incomes. It used to be assumed that food spending established a plateau somewhere in the middle income groups. Recent studies, however, show that the \$5,000-income family spends about \$30 a week for food, double the spending of the \$2,000-income groups; and the \$10,000-and-up family, on the average, spends over \$50 a week. The trend for more families to move out of the lower brackets into the middle and higher income groups is a continuing one.

**Taking these and other factors in consideration, the estimate is that by 1967, expenditures for food can reach \$105 billion—an increase of about 50 per cent over present levels.**

This is reasonable and wonderful

## SERVES MEAT IN PROMOTION STUNT



Chunks of barbecued meat being sliced by a Madison, Wis., chef and served in free sandwiches to hundreds of visitors and Madisonians watching the Centennial Week meat promotion stunt. The barbecue, held on the grounds of the state capitol, was sponsored by the Wisconsin department of agriculture and the Madison Chamber of Commerce and Foundation as a tribute to Wisconsin livestock farmers and highlighted the program of the 41st southwestern Wisconsin junior livestock exposition. (Wis. Dept. of Ag. photo)



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potential. But it is only a potential. There is no automatic factor which will keep grocery purchases climbing. The grocery industry will continue to grow only to the extent that we make it grow. Our future sales increases must be obtained in direct competition with television sets, automobiles, clothing, household appliances, travel and thousands of other products which are shouting louder and longer for a great share of the consumer's dollar.

With a generally favorable economic

outlook to spur us on, it now remains for all of us working together to develop appropriate plans to meet this competition by adding those "values" to our products which will tempt the consumer to buy. This much seems certain: Agriculture and industry have many things in common. They are very much dependent upon each other. And this strongly suggests that we, as intelligent businessmen in industry and agriculture, promote the best teamwork to help ourselves.

# Cites Function of Range Group

*(John D. Freeman, president of the American Society of Range Management, urges stockmen to join with Society members in finding answer to range problems.)*



John D. Freeman

**I HAVE BEEN ASKED** to talk about our organization—the American Society of Range Management. It is an organization that complements yours; it fills a need that has existed for a long time. It is an independent, non-profit organization with objectives beneficial to both technical and ranching folks alike.

The society was organized in 1947 by a handful of technical range workers to promote the interests and objectives of good range management. Today it numbers over 3,000. Most of the members live in western United States and western Canada with a few in the South and others scattered throughout the world. Anyone interested in range management is eligible for membership.

**This is about the only professional society that encourages nonprofessional people to join and participate in its affairs and share in its leadership. I am happy to report that out of the 3,000 members, 750 are ranchers. Our greatest potential for new members is with you ranchers. Those of you who are not members are invited to join your neighbors, and we welcome your application for membership. We are anxious to get the benefit of the many years experience of the cattlemen who are out on the ground working with forage.**

It is essential that the rancher keep up-to-date on the latest in range management. He can do this best by joining the Range Society and participating in the meetings and tours it sponsors. There are still many unsolved range problems. Technical men and research people need the cooperation of ranchers to arrive at the answers sooner. Increased knowledge does not necessarily mean decreased grazing.

**THE American Society of Range Management** has much to offer its members. There is common interest and fellowship. There is the Journal of Range Management. Printed every other month, it contains articles written by technicians and ranchers, many of whom you know. It is a constant source of new information. The Journal alone is well worth the \$6 we pay for a year's membership. Of equal importance to all of us are the meetings and tours which provide an unbiased forum for the discussion of range management problems.

**The Range Society is made up of 18 local sections, most of which are in the West. They are usually set up on a state basis, though a few take in more than one state. Local sections hold two or three meetings and tours a year. They are sound and are building for the future.**

Since I know more about the Arizona Section than any other, I'll tell you something about it. It has 250 members, one-half of them ranchers. The rancher members have been most active in its affairs and have contributed many excellent leaders. For instance, some of the section chairmen have been ranchers outstanding in their field: John Babbitt of Flagstaff, Freddie Fritz of Clifton, and the newly-elected chairman, Jim Finley of Holbrook.

**Last year's vice-chairman was our beloved friend and ardent booster and a lifetime member of your organization, one whom all of you here knew well—the late Frank Boice. We all miss him.**

Other ranchers of the state have served on the section council and helped establish policies and programs. These have included Steve Bixby of Globe, Kenneth Wingfield of Rimrock, Frank Gyberg of Cornville, Ray Cow-

den of Prescott, Walter Armer of Nogales, Frank Armer of Phoenix, Earl and Louie Horrell of Globe and Ernest Chilson of Winslow.

On the national level, ranchers have contributed considerably to the leadership and accomplishments of the Range Society—men of your organization, active in ours and men like past presidents of the society, Dan Fulton of Ismay, Mont., and Red Atkins of Guymon, Okla. Serving as directors have been George Weaver of Ft. Collins, Colo., Harold Josendal of Casper, Wyo., John Cross of Nanton, Alberta, Canada, and Kenneth Conrad of Wray, Colo.

\* \* \*

In summary—in my opinion, the American Society of Range Management provides the best meeting ground found so far where ranchers and technical people can get together and air their problems, look at things on the ground and get the latest information on range research and range management. The American way is "live and let live"—most assuredly in the fast-moving world we are living in today, the rancher and technical range worker must view things together.

## Packers Ask Relief From Consent Decree

Relief from restrictions in the packer consent decree has been requested by Swift & Co., and Armour and Co., and earlier also by the Cudahy Packing Co., in petitions before a federal district court.

The packers want to be relieved from the restrictions which prevent them from processing and distributing many foods and some non-food products and from engaging in retail trade.

The Cudahy brief contended the company is no longer one of the "big five"; that five additional packers not subject to the decree are as large or larger than Cudahy, and that the decree limits "opportunities for profit."

Swift and Armour contended that the decree, which was entered into in 1920 because of public criticism of the big packers, instead of fostering competition, which was the intent of the decree, now restrains competition.

The petitions asked for relief from restrictions against (1) dealing in about 140 food and non-food products, chiefly vegetables, fruit, fish and groceries; (2) using their distribution facilities for handling any of those restricted products; (3) owning and operating retail meat markets, and (4) dealing in fresh milk or cream.

Prohibitions in the decree include these requirements: no monopoly or restraint of trade; no interest in any stockyard or terminal railroad; no use of distribution facilities for handling a number of non-meat products; no controlling interest in certain types of food companies; no retail markets, and no interest in any cold storage warehouse.



# The Market Picture

AS THE grass cattle season came to a close, attention was shifted to the grain-fed cattle trade. Current fat-cattle marketings show a definite relationship to the past season's corn crop.

In-movement of feeder cattle was heaviest in eastern Iowa and Illinois, where bumper crops were harvested. While the seasonal movement, July through November, into the Corn Belt was up some 29 per cent over a year ago, the state of Illinois received 37 per cent more cattle. Some of these were calves and thin yearlings due for a long-term feeding operation and perhaps will not be back until next fall.

Nevertheless, a large share went directly into the feedlots and, in fact, much of the sharp increase over a year ago took place in July and August. Hence, a large number of four to five months fed cattle were coming back in December, with the Chicago market the logical point to receive much of this increased volume.

Near record numbers were channeled into the Chicago market, even though at some other points receipts were near normal. With large numbers concentrated in one area flowing into one market, rather than being more widely

distributed, dressed markets took sharp declines with the end not yet in sight late in December.

In fact, the approaching holiday period was a further deterrent to the dressed beef trade, as poultry and smoked pork items were favored. Some optimism was expressed for the post-holiday period after the turn of the year, but this was not justified by past history. A year ago, a similar downward trend was not checked until late February and early March.

The persistent declines in fat cattle prices finally checked the eastward movement from the West Coast and intermountain states. West Coast markets finally leveled off by early December and stabilized, while most other markets continued to work lower. Thus, the recent heavy movement, when Denver received upward to 50 to 60 loads per week, dropped to a mere trickle, and the long-term pattern of movement of intermountain fed cattle to West Coast packers was resumed.

The sharp declines in grain-fed cattle were reflected to a much lesser degree in feeder cattle trade. However, volume of feeders available was at a seasonal low, thus scarcity was a supporting factor. In fact, stock calves showed very little, if any, decline, even though feeder cattle did sell 50 cents to \$1 lower.

While cow marketings did level off from the peak runs of October and No-

vember, December marketings remained well above a year ago, especially in the southern plains, where range and feed conditions were the lowest since 1954. Cow prices recovered 50 cents to \$1 from the season low in November, but were scarcely up to year-ago levels. The bearish condition of the fed-cattle market no doubt had a tendency to prevent cow prices from working too close to fed steer and heifer prices. Although cow slaughter picked up sharply in October and November, indications for the entire year 1956 were that slaughter would fall somewhat short of 1955, due to the reduced number of cows killed early in 1956. Thus, any hope of reducing breeding herds for the year on a national basis were slim.

With the gradual depletion of cattle numbers in the southern plains due to drouth, some concern was expressed over the number of stocker and feeder cattle to be available in these areas for next spring delivery off winter wheat and pasture. In past years, large numbers have moved from these areas to feedlots in the spring, and particularly many heifers into Colorado feedlots. To date, no contracts of any consequence for future delivery have been reported.

An interesting development in movement of livestock the past year was the shift of large numbers of sheep into the Corn Belt. During the five-month



**"YOU WANT YOUR BANK  
LIKE A FRIEND..."**

"Sure money's tight, but the Denver National has stuck by me, credit-wise, through good years and bad, and they're sticking by me today. When you're in the livestock business, you want your bank like any other friend...dependable.—Channing Sweet.

**"Built on Service to the West"**

**The DENVER NATIONAL Bank**

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← Channing Sweet, prominent livestock man

period, July through November, volume moving into the Corn Belt states was up nearly 30 per cent. Yet, over-all inventory numbers of sheep and lambs over the country are very little different from recent years. This was explained by the fact that much of the large movement this year was breeding stock and indicates a trend toward more small farm flocks in the Midwest, and fewer large bands on the western ranges.

A sharp reduction in pork supplies developed somewhat later than expected and hog prices worked sharply higher, current prices running at \$5 per cwt. above a year ago. This apparently had little effect upon consumer demand for beef, since at the same time fed cattle prices were at the lowest point since last spring and, in fact, very little above a year ago.

#### PRICE ROUND-UP

Late in December, good and choice fed steers bulked at \$16.50 to \$20.50, a few loads reaching \$21 to \$21.50. Some high choice and prime at Corn Belt markets made \$22 to \$26, a few loads at Chicago selling around \$28. With lightweight steers again being preferred over heavies, heifers were selling

very close to steers on the average, good and choice bringing \$16 to \$20, a few loads high choice and prime \$21 to \$22. Beef cows bulked at \$9.50 to \$11.50, a few commercial upward to \$12.50. Cannery and cutters sold at \$7.50 to \$9.50, mostly \$8 upward. Stock cows sold in limited volume at \$8 to \$10. Good and choice stocker and feeder steers brought \$15 to \$17.50, only a few loads reaching \$18, but uniformly choice yearlings were difficult to locate. Good and choice heifers brought \$13.50 to \$15.25. Good and choice steer calves brought \$17 to \$20.50, with choice to fancy quotable above this, some choice recently having brought up to \$22. Good and choice heifers calves made \$14.50 to \$18, mostly \$15 to \$17.50.—C.W.

#### MORE CATTLE GO OVERSEAS BY AIRPLANE THAN BOAT

More than 25,000 animals—from common ordinary mules to rare jungle dwellers like the okapi—were examined for importation or exportation at air and ocean ports of this country during fiscal year 1956 by USDA inspectors.

Aircraft carried 63 per cent of all U. S. livestock shipped overseas. As re-

cently as 1953, only 25 per cent of our livestock was exported by air. For the first time, more cattle were shipped by plane than by boat—8,990 by air, 5,797 by sea.

The inspectors' biggest job is to keep livestock diseases of foreign origin out of the United States. Inspection and quarantine are the important tools they use. No diseases are known to have been brought in by imported animals and poultry during the past year. However, a number of diseased livestock were detected and rejected at ports of entry by watchful inspectors of USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

#### NEW FORD ALMANAC

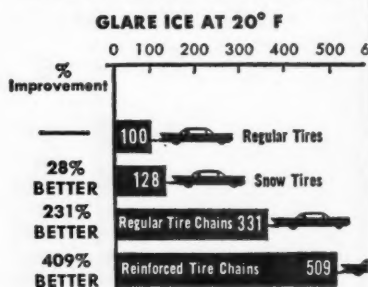
The Ford 1957 Almanac, published by Simon & Schuster and edited by John Strohm, offers 176 pages filled with useful and interesting information on the fast changing agricultural scene. The little book includes more than 300 illustrations, more than 250 stories and 32 pages in color. There's a youth section, one on gardens and country living and others on home and family. Copies \$1 each at newsstands, bookstores or Simon & Schuster, New York.

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### FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW

#### COMPARATIVE STARTING ABILITY

Traction Ratings • based on hundreds of test runs to measure pull at 20 MPH  
Index is expressed at 100 for regular tires



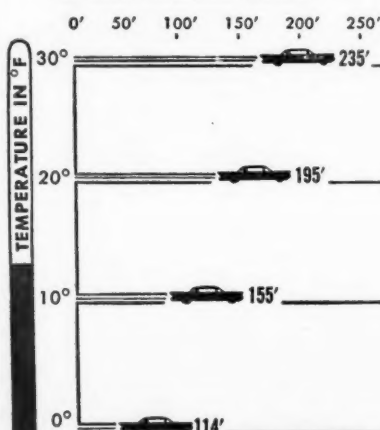
#### COMPARATIVE STOPPING ABILITY

Braking Distances in Feet from 20 MPH



#### EFFECTS OF TEMPERATURE ON BRAKING DISTANCES

Speed of 20 MPH on glare ice  
Distances are indicated in feet



#### AVERAGE BRAKING DISTANCES FOR REGULAR TIRES

Use of reinforced tire chains provides shortest stops, about 77 feet, regardless of temperatures

Above National Safety Council charts illustrate latest test results by its Committee on Winter Driving Hazards. For each "braking distance" above you must add 22 feet, which is distance traveled during average "reaction time" to get your foot on brake. New booklet, "Quit Your Skiddin'," is available free by writing National Safety Council, Chicago 11, Ill.



# State Meetings

## ARIZONA

**T**HE CLOUD THAT SHADOWED the 53rd annual convention of the Arizona Cattle Growers at Tucson recently was strictly an imaginary one—no real cloud has appeared to dispel the worst drouth the section has suffered in the memory of anyone at the meeting. Despite these conditions, however, there was an air of hope, and Don Collins, American National president, was one of the speakers who cited it, and a "measure of stability" in the future of the beef cattlemen.

"If we continue to deny regimentation and controls are necessary, and if we will continue to believe freedom is important and precious," Mr. Collins stated, "then the future of beef producers—and of beef eaters—will be secure." A scientist also offered some optimistic words when Dr. James E. McDonald of the University of Arizona told the stockmen current studies indicate there will be colder and wetter weather in the West.

The Arizona convention also heard speeches by Kenneth Scott, Agricultural Credit Services, USDA, Washington, who discussed drouth aid; Dr. George Barr of the state University, talking during a panel discussion on watersheds; Senator Barry Goldwater, speaking of taxes and tax laws.

In their resolutions, the stock growers opposed creation of new government departments except those of emergency nature; asked the state legislature to exempt agricultural workers from provisions of any labor department bill; protested further withdrawals of land for military purposes except where necessity is clearly shown. They advocated that the federal government pay to the states moneys in lieu of taxes on all federally owned properties in the states; favored exemption from state gas tax all gas used on non state or county maintained highways.

The Arizonians recommended establishment of quotas on livestock and livestock product imports to number of pounds exported in 1956; asked the

USDA to compile monthly feedlot inventories instead of quarterly reports as at present; opposed piecemeal reductions or raises in freight rates, believing all livestock and dressed meat freight rates should be kept uniformly as low as possible; endorsed and supported the National Beef Council's efforts to secure passage of necessary enabling legislation for check-off system; asked that Section 7 of the Taylor Grazing Act be amended to provide for reasonable compensation to grazing lessees, permittees or licensees for loss or exchange of leased lands or grazing privileges resulting from classification and disposal of lands for uses other than grazing excepting locations and entrances under the mining law.

The stockmen asked that all grazing fees be waived for the next year on all federal grazing lands in Arizona; asked Congress to make an emergency appropriation of \$5 million to be expended by the agriculture secretary in designated drouth states under the Granger-Thye Act; called for a strong noxious plant eradication program; endorsed recommendations of the Arizona Watershed Program Report, and urged action by state and federal agencies in charge of the watershed.

## UTAH

**S**ALT LAKE CITY was the scene of the 38th annual convention of the Utah Cattlemen's Association last month. One of the resolutions adopted by the cowmen called for appointment of a special committee to study the problem of cattle marketing, with cattlemen of the state suffering the continual troubles of drouth and economic pressures.

Speakers at the meeting included Radford Hall, executive secretary of the American National Cattlemen's Association, and Farrington Carpenter, Hayden, Colo.; Harvey Dahl, with the USDA at Deeth, Nev.; Dr. R. H. Walker, dean of the School of Agricultural Sciences, Utah State Agricultural College, who reported on progress in beef cattle research that will benefit the livestock growers.

Howard Clegg of Tooele was named Utah Cattleman of the Year by the FFA for his record as a cattleman and

New officers of the Utah Cattlemen's Association elected last month (l. to r.): Hugh W. Colton, Vernal, first vice-president; Alonzo F. Hopkin, Woodruff, president; Howard Clegg, Tooele, second vice-president.



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(Wolves, Warbles)

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And Sarcoptic

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Also a **SHOW COAT Spray!**... Excellent conditioner of hair and hide! Gives animals a beautiful, glossy coat, free from scale and scurf.

**FREE OFFER!**... Complete catalog showing various types of Cattle Oilers (back-rubbers), and Livestock Sprayers, all at new low prices! Also Big 24-Pg. Illustrated Stock-Pest Manual sent free! Write—  
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## HARD TASK

Try to convince a schoolboy that summer vacation days are longer than winter school days.

## Angus steers bring \$1 to \$3 more per cwt.

Angus fat steers dress out more salable beef, so packers usually pay \$1 to \$3 more per cwt. for them—extra profit if you feed Blacks.

## Convert feed into beef efficiently

Angus are famous for converting grain and roughage into quality beef that brings top-of-the-market prices. Be ahead! Feed Blacks!

American Angus Ass'n, St. Joseph, Mo.

his civic and business activities.

The Utah resolutions condemned all forms of consignment selling and direct sales to packers; rejected two proposals for obtaining direct federal aid to cattlemen; asked tighter regulations governing diseased cattle; called for reduced interest rates; asked that Congress amend the Internal Revenue Act to allow agricultural income to be listed on a separate tax return; called for stronger state meat inspection laws. They also authorized collection by packers of a 10-cent-per-head tax on beef animals at market, 2 cents to go to the National Live Stock and Meat Board, the rest for use by the cattlemen in promotion of their interests.

Alonzo F. Hopkin of Woodruff was elected president of the organization; Hugh W. Colton, Vernal, first vice-president; Howard Clegg, Tooele, second vice-president. Edward S. Crawford is the secretary.

## FLORIDA

AROUND 250 CATTLEMEN and cattletwomen from most of the state's counties were in Fort Pierce some weeks ago for the annual convention of the Florida Cattlemen's Association. They elected J. O. Pearce, Jr., Okeechobee, president; Ned Brock first vice-president; George Kempfer second vice-president; Ralph Cellon second vice-president; Elmo Griffin treasurer, and June Gunn secretary. The latter two officers, both of Kissimmee, were re-elected. B. J. Alderman of Grandin is the outgoing president.

High on the agenda at the meeting was consideration of the subject of screwworm eradication; screwworms have caused the highest losses in history this past year in the state, and the problem was the basis for a key resolution adopted during the meeting.



Officers of Florida Cattlemen's Association (seated, l. to r.): Ned Brock, Vernon, Fla., first vice president; J. O. Pearce, Jr., Okeechobee, president; Geo. Kempfer, Deer Park, second vice-president; (standing) Ralph L. Cellon, Alachua; second vice-president; R. Elmo Griffin, Kissimmee, treasurer; June Gunn, Kissimmee, secretary.

In another action, the Floridians asked chain stores to stop using the word "western" in their advertising and called for promotion of the term "beef produced in Florida".

Don C. Collins of Kit Carson, Colo., president of the American National, spoke in criticism of the present soil bank program; described the outlook for cattle prices as better, with numbers leveling off, imports down, exports up and consumption continuing to increase.

A beef cutting demonstration was put on by Augie R. Ring, National Live Stock and Meat Board field man; C. T. "Tad" Saunders of the National Beef Council outlined differences between the promotional work done by his group and other organizations; Eugene H. Boyes of Gainesville, soil bank specialist with the Florida agricultural stabilization and conservation office, explained operation of the soil bank program in the state.

## CALIFORNIA

THE EARLY-DECEMBER convention—the 40th—of the California Cattlemen's Association at San Jose was notable for a reiteration by the membership of their dislike of "federal crutches". The annual meeting brought out a record attendance to hear a number of strong speeches, including that of retiring President Harvey McDougal of Collinsville, who among other points made a strong appeal for industry-wide, nation-wide beef promotion.

Executive Secretary Rad Hall of the American National at Denver reported on association activities and issued an urgent invitation to the January convention of the National at Phoenix.

Franklin Graff of Menlo Park stressed the point that in order to hold a fair share of the consumer's disposable income, beef must be the object of creative selling and promotion by



At the annual WSC student-stockmen banquet Dec. 11, Professor F. B. Morrison was honored by the Washington Cattleman's Association. Shown is President John McMinimee (left) presenting Professor Morrison with a hand-tooled leather-bound copy of Feeds and Feeding. Professor Morrison was also presented with a leather scroll awarding him a life membership in the Washington Cattlemen's Association in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the livestock industry of the nation and of the world. (WSC photo)

the producer, processor and retailer. Roscoe Haynie, vice-president of Wilson & Co., Chicago, discussed beef grading, saying his objection to government grading was that it was really merely a penalizing government stamping; Henry J. Kruse, head of the Seattle Packing Co. also discussed grading, which he said "is here to stay—so let's try to improve it."

The delegates named Robert O. Johnson of Sanger president for the coming year; to succeed him in the first vice-presidency they elected Brunel Christenson of Likely. Other vice-presidents are Orville Cummings, Pomona; John M. Marble, Carmel Valley; Fred Reynolds, Inyo. The secretary is Edgar Dick of San Francisco.

Resolutions adopted by the California cattlemen included—

Reiteration of opposition to any government program based on direct price supports or subsidies.

Approval of current studies on federal beef grading and urging that "consumer acceptance to grade names be a feature of these studies."

Favored legislation for collection of 10 cents a head on cattle sold at time brand inspection fees are collected (except on young calves and she-stock sold for breeding) for beef promotion funds.

Commended the following for their beef promotion work: Pacific Gas and Electric Co., Western States Meat Packers Association, American Meat Insti-



tute, National Live Stock and Meat Board, and favored continuation of western vs. eastern beef promotion campaigns.

In land matters the cattlemen requested that Bureau of Land Management grant five-acre residence and business permits only in specific areas not interfering with grazing use.

Recommended that the armed forces show an integrated program of land use before further expansion of military land and that land not needed be returned to the original use.

Favored present division of the 25 per cent funds from forest receipts between county schools and roads.

Favored continued research by the fish and game department in brush removal; asked public utilities companies to cooperate in protecting their poles in areas to be burned; commended the state board of forestry for its program on controlled brush burning; and urged county officers and the extension service to help in organization of range improvement committees.

The cattlemen opposed legislation to create a national wilderness preservation system, favoring the multiple-use theory for public lands.

On the question of water, they insisted that water rights in the western irrigation states be determined by state law; asked that the areas in which water originates be protected with enough water for reasonable ultimate needs and that areas of deficiency be protected to the amount of surplus water they have contracted for with the state; urged funds for the initial phases of the Feather River projects.

The cattlemen favored an "adequate livestock fence" along the U.S.-Mexican border from Arizona to the Pacific Coast; urged more effective control of rabies in wildlife; asked the school of veterinary medicine to study the cause and control of the high percentage of abortions, particularly in first calf heifers; asked for an equitable solution of the use of livestock remedies because "legal interpretations of laws raise the question of the continuation of the livestock man's treatment of his animals.

In marketing matters, resolutions called for a program of education to eliminate the practice of marketing on an open consignment basis; expressed belief there is no warranty implied in the mere sale of livestock and that the caveat emptor principle is being challenged, and therefore urged the association to promote the principle of the buyer's responsibility as applied to livestock transactions.

The cattlemen asked "adequate enforcement" of the Packers and Stockyards Act within the USDA in unfair trade practices where necessary.

They asked the American National Cattlemen's Association to get behind a study of "price making factors in the nation's livestock and meat industry," and that the University of California further study marketing methods in California.

Correction of "misuse of sheep drive-ways" was requested.

A resolution asked that stockmen's views be considered in deer population questions; another sought control of wild burro depredations.

The cattlemen asked the American National to consider promoting studies of operating costs in the industry and that the University of California conduct such research.

They also favored a study of certain abuses in income tax matters concerning soil conservation payments, suggested that appraisals of land be made on current earning capacity, and recommended two-way radios for the bureau of livestock identification men.

A resolution on transportation matters included opposition to the 22 per cent rate increase asked by railroads and continued action against the west-bound dressed meat rates cuts.

*Ever wonder about origin of the phrase "Bring home the bacon?" According to National Live Stock Producer, bacon was a popular and essential family fare for thousands of years. The ability to bring it home indicates good income or successful business.*



Herman Oliver, right, presents Tom McElroy, Jr. and Mrs. McElroy trophy for having won the annual Oregon Cattleman of the Year contest. The award was presented at the cattlemen's annual banquet at Prineville, Ore., Dec. 17. The winning was in ranch management and public relations. The McElroys are from Vale, Ore. (Oregon Cattleman photo)



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# LADIES' CHOICE



## Through a Ranch House Window

By Dorothy McDonald



Mrs. McDonald

Such nice letters came this month that it is a joy to start this bright New Year with glimpses from other Ranch House Windows. The first, from Shella (Mrs. Dave) Robinson, president of the North Dakota CowBelles, is like a nostalgic glimpse back to the snowy winters of my childhood.

"The children could hardly wait for the first snow to fall," she writes, "but I guess mothers are more practical-minded. All I could think of was overshoes and mittens drying all winter by the register . . . The first snow that comes gives the morning sky a different color somehow. I usually can guess before I get out of bed whether or not the ground will be white. This year the weather stayed warm, and most of the snow in the yard was rolled up into snowmen by evening. Then a warm wind came from the south and melted the 'men' into broken piles of dirty slush. . . . Later the snow that comes will stay all winter. Here in North Dakota it seldom stays in one place right after it falls. A wind will start cutting it and carrying it along, and soon the shelter belts of trees will hold tall drifts which make wonderful places to slide. The fields will resemble an ocean of restless waves which cannot rest until the next snow blankets them in white again and smooths their sharp edges . . . The nearest good sliding hill is a mile or two away down in the pasture. I regret my children do not have the hill I used in my own childhood—right at the back of the house. Here a saddle horse and rope provided the power to keep the sled moving at a lively pace around the yards and through the roadside ditches . . . The last few winters have been fairly open, so we sold our remaining team of horses. Now instead of the pleasant crunch of hooves on snow and the swish of sled runners we hear the roar of a truck or tractor hauling silage and grain for the cattle. I must admit that the hydraulic loading fork is much faster and easier than the old-fashioned pitchfork. And the steers gain faster on supplements than on the Russian thistle hay which was all that was available one winter back in the 30's . . . so time

moves on and all is changed except the changeless quiet of the snow."

From Johnie (Mrs. Norman) Fain, a member of the entertainment committee of the Arizona ladies, came a delightful note of apology and explanation—not necessary, as all the information came in in plenty of time—to let us know that "all the Arizona ladies were so happily busy with our preparations for this anticipated event (and the regular roundup duties) that we just failed to make the November deadline."

"The November Producer," she writes, "found me in roundup camp some 35 miles from the headquarters ranch. One of the boys hauled a load of calves over home, and he picked up the accumulated mail and returned it to me in exchange for a promised cherry pie . . . When the snow flies—and it must this winter on our ranch—I'm going to sit down and write at length about the world through our Ranch House Window. Life there these past six weeks has been a busy one. The work has been complicated this fall by the drouth. I had spent much of the time riding with the cowboys, but a losing argument with a fighting bull put both my horse and me on the crippled list. So, with a plaster on my back, an unnecessary number of groans, and a great deal of thankfulness that I am not entirely grounded, I've been cooking for the short crew that is finishing the fall work . . . All the CowBelles of our state are looking forward with enthusiasm to greeting and meeting our friends from all over the United States who will join us in convention. We're very sorry if we seemed slow to extend our sincere invitation to all wives and daughters of the cattlemen. Arizona CowBelles have joined forces with Old Sol to insure you a warm welcome as well as a few days of pleasant surprises, and we sincerely invite you to come . . . Don't worry about the right clothes; before you leave home unpack and hang back in your clothes closet half the clothes you thought you would need, and you will then probably have the necessary things for the trip—to say nothing of putting your husband in a happy frame of mind because of the minimum of luggage and fuss."

By the time this sees print we'll probably be in Pheonix. I don't think any of us doubt the warm-hearted western welcome that will meet us there . . . but after our long drouth

I for one would be willing to forego the promised sunshine if our coming would bring along the rain that they so much need. And, judging from our own experiences here in San Diego, that is quite probable; if we only have 4 inches of rain in 10 months, it'll all come when we're entertaining out-of-state guests! But rain or shine, I'm sure we'll have a wonderful time in Pheonix.

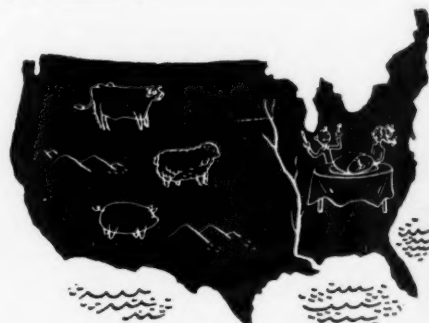
I hope to meet you there.

## AT HOME ON THE RANGE

Browsing through the Kansas state cattlemen's magazine, I came upon a meal-in-a-dish that sounded so good to me that we had it for dinner yesterday. It's a simplified version of "beef birds"—I make them by rolling small pieces of round steak around well-seasoned dressing—and my family voted this "very good." I shall try it later on with other soups for variations; it's the sort of dish that you can work over in many different ways by your choice of

## Meat and the Mississippi River

The above is the title of a booklet for youngsters put out by Swift & Company, which tells this story, as summarized:



"About two-thirds of the livestock, all of us know, West of the Mississippi River do grow. Two-thirds of the people in the good U.S.A. Live east of the river; and they eat every day. Now the meat which they eat averages to travel about 1,000 miles from the range to the table. Nationwide meat packers are needed for the chores of making and marketing meat for distant food stores!

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER



condiments. I like that sort of recipe. It combines the speed of preparation which comes only from using recipes you are familiar with, plus the possibility of bringing many flavor-changes on the basic ingredients. It should be good with tomato juice or tomato soup for the fluid, or perhaps with chopped onions and bacon instead of carrots for the filling. At any rate, here's the basic recipe. What you make of it, I guess, depends on your own ingenuity.

#### SKILLET STEAK DINNER

(Courtesy the Kansas CowBelles)

Beef round steak, cut into 4 pieces about 3 x 5 inches

1/4 cup flour	4 potatoes, peeled
1 tsp. salt	4 small onions
1/4 cup lard or drippings	1 can (10 1/2 oz.) condensed mushroom soup
3 small carrots, cut lengthwise into fourths	1/2 cup water
	1/4 tsp. pepper

**METHOD:** Combine flour, salt and pepper. Dredge the round steak with seasoned flour. Place 3 or 4 carrot sticks on each piece of steak, wrap and fasten with wooden skewers or toothpicks. Brown rolls slowly on all sides in lard; add potatoes and onions. Combine mushroom soup and water and pour over all. Cover closely and simmer in the oven or on top of stove until meat is tender and vegetables are done. (Four servings.)

To appetites jaded by too much rich Holiday food, this simple meat-and-vegetable dish is particularly pleasing. Served with a side dish of home-canned string beans and perhaps a just-warm apple pie, it's a meal the whole family will enjoy. For that little "something extra," did you ever try grating a little nutmeg over a pitcher of cold rich cream and pouring it over the warm apple pie? You should!

And so . . . good eating . . . and good evening . . . to you all.

D. L. McD.

## American National CowBelle Chimes

Vol. 5, No. 1

January, 1957

President—Mrs. Fred H. Dressler, Gardnerville, Nev.

Vice-Presidents—Mrs. M. E. Trego, Sutherland, Nebr.; Mrs. L. E. Houck, Gettysburg, S. D.; Mrs. N. H. Dekle, Plaquemine, La.

Secretary-Treasurer—Mrs. Roy Bankofier, Fernley, Nev.

Editor—Mrs. Dorothy McDonald, 7905 Pala St., San Diego 14, Calif.

Since this is the month of the National convention, there will be no message from your president; Mrs. Dressler said her farewells in December and the new officers are not yet selected as this goes to press.

It seemed a good time for us to tender our thanks to Mrs. Dressler and her fine associates . . . to the three

vice-presidents . . . to hard-working Loriae Bankofier, our secretary-treasurer . . . to all the beef promotion chairmen . . . and to the hundreds of other unheralded members without whose efforts the CowBelles could not continue to exist.

Did you ever stop to think how fortunate we have been in the caliber of our leaders? Mrs. Lynam, Mattie Cowan, Mrs. Guthrie, Mrs. Joe Watt, and now Mrs. Dressler—each one of them has built up our organization in her own unique manner. And this one thing they have had in common—the selflessness with which they have given of their time, their efforts and their own funds to represent the National CowBelles whenever and wherever it would count in the promotion of our industry.

**I know you all join me in wishing our immediate past officers, and all those who preceded them, the best of everything in 1957.**

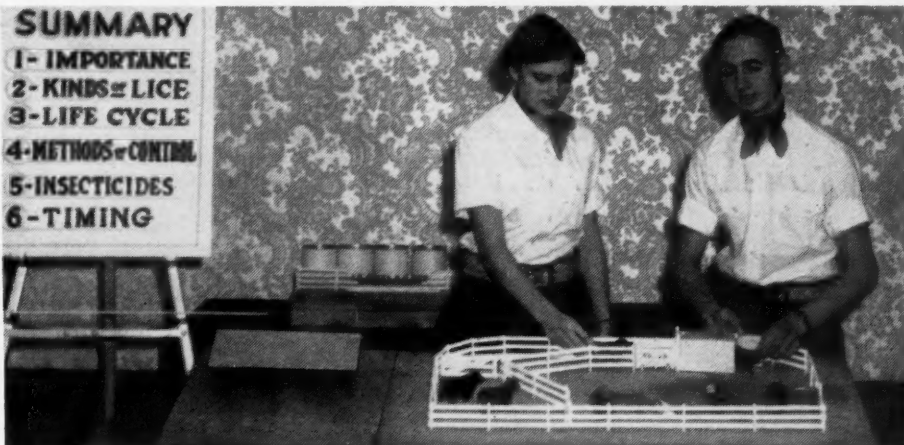
**And for ourselves, let's get behind our new officers and make them welcome by pitching in to make this the most successful year of all.**

## CONVENTIONS:

ARIZONA CowBelles met in connection with the Arizona Cattlemen's meeting in Tucson Nov. 29-Dec. 1. As is their custom, the CowBelle breakfast held at the Student Union Bldg. of the University of Arizona was followed by the business meeting and election of officers. Meeting was presided over by Mrs. Edith Knight, and the CowBelles were happy to have as their guest Mrs. Fred Dressler, president of the National CowBelles, who flew in from her home for the meeting. Officers elected for 1957 are Mrs. Polly (Ernest) Browning of Wilcox, president; Mrs. Pete Barimas, Kingman, first vice-president; Mrs. Ray (Lois) Claridge, Safford, second vice-president; Mrs. Sue McDaniel, Phoenix, third vice-president. Mrs. Knight then turned the gavel over to President Polly, who introduced her secretary for the year, Mrs. Roy (Jacky) Holland of Dos Cabazos, Wilcox. Jacky is one of Arizona's talented members, having won the state poster contest. County reports were read by Mrs. Hill of Santa Cruz CowBelles and

## SUMMARY

- 1- IMPORTANCE
- 2- KINDS OF LICE
- 3- LIFE CYCLE
- 4- METHODS OF CONTROL
- 5- INSECTICIDES
- 6- TIMING



The Colorado Cattlemen's Association-sponsored 4-H loss prevention team (above) shared top honors in a Livestock Conservation, Inc., contest in Chicago, with the Nebraska team (bottom picture) sharing in the honors. The Colorado co-winners were LaVina Wommer, 17, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wommer, Bayfield, and Donald Olbert, 17, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Olbert, Ignacio. Nebraska team members were Donna Ruth Margrits, 16, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Margrits, and Mary Ruth Rickertsen, 17, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Rickertsen, all of Lexington. Project of the Colorado team was control of cattle lice and that of Nebraska's, handling cattle with ease. Livestock Conservation, Inc., over-all sponsor of the event, is a non-profit educational and research organization devoted to minimizing livestock loss.

by Joyce Mercer of the Tucson CowBelles. The latter was a very cleverly rhymed one by talented CowBelle Gypsy (Mrs. Phil) Clarke, emphasizing that Tucson's "project, the same as last year and the one before that, was having FUN." (Sorry we haven't space to quote this clever report.—ED)

CALIFORNIA CowBelles met in San Jose on Dec. 6-8, with the board of directors meeting on the 6th. Ladies' luncheon and a western fashion show were featured on the 7th, and new officers were installed at an 8:30 brunch on Saturday morning. (Sorry that as this goes to press we do not have the names of the new officers who will lead the California group in 1957-58—ED.)

OKLAHOMA CowBelles met in Tulsa in September. Plans were made for a large and representative group from Oklahoma to attend the National convention. Plans were also made for the CowBelles of Tulsa and Nowata area to assist with the consumers meat display at the National Live Stock and Meat Board exhibit at the Tulsa Fair and Livestock Exposition. Several Oklahoma CowBelles later officiated at the display booth, giving out stickers and booklets. Later, the manager of the Tulsa Fair stated that this was the most popular exhibit and drew the most attention from both men and women fairgoers. Oklahoma CowBelles feel this was a very satisfactory piece of beef promotion effort.

\* \* \*

## Here And There With The Cowbelles

Calaveras-Tuolumne (Calif.) CowBelles made their fair booth at the Mother Lode Fair doubly successful by entering it in a competitive class. Not only did they do a fine job of beef promotion but they won a \$200 prize which will help finance further beef promotion activities of the group. Mrs. Otis Rosasco, Mrs. Lloyd Hodge and Mrs. Louise Price designed and assembled the booth, and at least two CowBelle hostesses were on hand at all times during the four days of the fair to greet the public, and to hand out contest entry blanks and beef recipes.

\* \* \*

Colorado CowBelles, more than 60 in number, met in Colorado Springs Dec. 1 for the mid-winter breakfast meeting which was highlighted by announcements of several beef promotion projects. These included cookbooks featuring Colorado CowBelle recipes to sell for 25 cents each; quilts to be made by local groups, individual blocks to feature local brands and the quilts to go to the winner with a lucky number; a booth during the National Western Stock Show.

\* \* \*

New beef promotion ideas through

the use of cheaper cuts of beef were introduced at the November meeting of the Pikes Peak (Colo.) CowBelles when an official from a Denver packing company unveiled and served three different kinds of tasty meat loaf which will soon go on the market as frozen products. For variety, six new all-beef frozen items will be merchandised by the company, all of them using the cheaper and less popular cuts of beef.

The Boulder County (Colo.) CowBelles met in conjunction with the Boulder-South Larimer Cattlemen for a covered-dish luncheon on Dec. 10 at the Pleasant View Grange Hall near Boulder. It was reported that there are still place mats and cookbooks available, and plans for selling them were discussed. An important topic taken up was the state essay contest on beef for 7th and 8th grades; local prizes of \$8, \$5 and \$3 were voted and a committee named to work on this project as well as another committee to look into ways of raising money.

Nebraska's CowBelles recently announced that their group, organized in 1948, now boasts 980 members, making it the second largest of any state CowBelles association.

The first girl to receive the Idaho CowBelles' annual scholarship is Charlene Roth of Idaho Falls, a college of agriculture junior. Miss Roth was chosen for the \$100 award as an outstanding student majoring in animal husbandry.

## President's Speech

(Continued from Page 8)

things we haven't give a fair trial yet. I'm only going to touch on a few. But certainly at the head of the list is research—and our personal adoption of findings which will make our own operations more efficient and economical.

RESEARCH covers such a broad field, but we need much more study into how we can best market our cattle, how we can best promote our product, how we can solve some of the problems brought on by disease control regulations, and how we can get every acre of our land and every head of our herd to do a balanced, profitable job.

Take marketing, for instance. The American National takes no position favoring any marketing practice, rather it insists that every stockman be free to market in any way he feels best for him. However, it is becoming more and more apparent that in proper marketing the rancher has a great opportunity to turn a poor season into a good one, or to foul up a season's work by this one decision. By knowing all about marketing channels, by having all information readily available to him, the rancher can govern his own profit and

loss. And, here again the decision must be made for the long run, and not just for the particular day of sale.

We think that each rancher can help himself and the industry by spreading out his shipments—getting rid of the one or two day markets, for instance.

Refinements and improvements of voluntary federal beef grading need continuous study by the industry. It is becoming obvious that the cattle industry is convinced that voluntary beef grading provides a needed and valuable service.

But we must remain flexible—we must watch every factor, study every research project, check every sale to see that grading remains modern and current to demand. We must always provide the consumer with the quality she desires when and how she wants it.

Beef promotion is another area where "do-it-yourself" has proven to us that the industry has the brains and the enthusiasm for doing a job. Despite the fine work by the CowBelles, the state and national beef councils, the Juniors and everybody else in the industry, we haven't yet found the final answer that will satisfy tomorrow's situation while solving that of today.

I have no doubt that a satisfactory solution will be found—and I, for one, am not going to be impatient if it takes a few more months or years . . . it must be right for all concerned. Don't forget, the bull calf takes a few years before it proves out on its breeding.

Once in a while a fellow has to accept a government regulation despite his personal feelings. He accepts because he looks into the future and sees that it is going to be necessary to take the lesser of two evils. And I think that the brucellosis shipping regulations which have just gone into effect fall right into that category.

We must not confuse these shipping regulations with the test-and-slaughter program, and we must not label the shipping regulations as a "cause" of troubles—they are the result of the stringent regulations being put on by states as they work to clear their herds of brucellosis. We hope that these shipping regulations will develop more uniformity so that some of the inequities of strict state regulations will be modified.

Even though we should accept these shipping regulations, we must continue to work for more practical, economical and logical ways in which to eradicate brucellosis. We must gain more recognition for calfhood vaccination, we must try to find techniques which will cut down on the number in a herd to be tested—or perhaps develop new slaughterhouse-test methods such as are being studied now.

But in the meantime, the over-all industry should accept the principle of uniformity to protect the gains that have been made and to insure the future.

In looking also at the future I think

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER



we should adopt a manner of pride in our business; we should be proud of the free enterprise system and cease being ashamed of looking for a profit. It seems to me that we can earn more respect and understanding for the job we are doing than we can possibly expect to "buy" through legislation. And if we are proud of what we are doing, we then can be willing to make the sacrifices, adopt the new techniques and get our own house in order . . . without being told that we must do this or that.

The "do-it-yourself" aspect of the cow business seems to be to be the "last frontier" of our way of life. We have the right to freely question, freely look for answers and freely make fools of ourselves if we choose. And, thank God for this: There are no guns or directives telling us what to do and how to do it.

### Cook Schools Drawing Card

Cooking schools sponsored by the National Live Stock and Meat Board since September have been attracting tens of thousands of homemakers in all parts of the country to set new attendance records. In one week in October around 30,000 persons were present in four different cities for these classes—an average attendance of 1,900 at each daily session of the four-day schools.

## ASSOCIATION NOTES

Tom Bonar of Broomfield, Colo. has been elected president of the **Boulder-South Larimer Live Stock Association**, at a meeting in the Pleasant View Grange Hall near Boulder; he succeeds Hal Hall of Lyons. Willard Wells of Boulder is the new vice-president, and Ralph Petrie of Longmont the secretary-treasurer. Lunch was served by the Boulder County CowBelles.

In Cheyenne last month, members of the **Wyoming Stock Growers' executive committee** were told by their state veterinarian that 1957 state legislature will be asked for a \$246,370 appropriation on a brucellosis control program; this compares with the \$70,000 set up in 1955 for both brucellosis and tuberculosis work. Dr. G. H. Good told the cattlemen the goal is to have the whole state certified as brucellosis-free by 1960, and Gov. Milward L. Simpson stated he would not cut the request of the state livestock and sanitary board, believing that Wyoming's position as a livestock exporting state makes it important that cattlemen there meet interstate standards. Only .32 per cent of cattle tested in Wyoming last year were brucellosis reactors.

Radford Hall of Denver, executive secretary of the American National Cattlemen's Association, and his recently

appointed assistant, Roy Lilley, attended the Wyoming meeting.

Members and officers of the **Nebraska Stock Growers Association** are looking forward to their midsummer state convention with special anticipation this year because their new headquarters building at Alliance is expected to be completed by June 1. The annual meeting will be held June 13-15.

The **Western Oregon Livestock Association** has called, by resolution, for a stronger state dog control law; voted to set up a livestock man-of-the-year in western Oregon contest; asked the USDA to study possibilities of establishing a scientific method for determining carcass grades of live animals; opposed lowering of freight rates on westbound fresh meats, packinghouse products and livestock. The Oregonians endorsed their state association's efforts to set up a beef commission; called for a strong membership program; wanted purebred cattle breeders, dairy breeding and dairy improvement associations exempted from certain brand law regulations regarding tattooing.

The **Colorado Cattlemen's Association** held its midwinter meeting at Colorado Springs early last month with about 340 attending the two-day sessions. In their resolutions adopted at the gathering, the cattlemen expressed support



Chas. Stover, Pres.  
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of an amendment to mining laws requiring that persons filing mining claims be held liable for abstracting costs in cases where mineral claim infringes on title of deeded land; called for establishment of weed control districts; supported state legislation regulating further development of ground water, but asked that a water bill not disturb present water appropriations and decrees.

In their fourth quarterly meeting at Santa Fe early last month, the **New Mexico Cattle Growers** adopted a number of resolutions. These: petitioned the ICC to deny requests of railroads for further freight rate increases at this time; pledged continued support of the state sanitary board in its bovine brucellosis work and commended the animal disease eradication branch of the USDA for its cooperation in the state; called on the American National to continue investigation of practices by large chain stores and packers of feeding livestock. The American National was also asked to investigate reason and justification for "extremely strict grading of fat cattle imposed by inspection department of USDA in recent months;" desired the federal government to study possible adverse effects in the Southwest of commercial cloud seeding; opposed increases in amount of lands owned by the U. S. in trust for Navajo Indians, asking instead that such lands be administered by the BLM under the Taylor Grazing Act.

The **Southern Colorado Livestock Association** in an annual pre-dance meeting Dec. 15 re-elected Charles Gyurman, Tyrone, president; Bob Parsons, Weston, vice-president, and Harry Bierne, Trinidad, secretary. Most of the discussion concerned problems in the recent quarantine of Las Animas and Crowley counties because of a cattle scabies outbreak, and brucellosis regulations which they vigorously oppose. Speakers were Ray Burke of the Colorado department of agriculture; John Messick, New Mexico state brand in-

At the **Utah Cattlemen's Association** convention last month (l. to r.): E. S. Crawford, secretary of the association; Rad Hall, Denver, executive secretary of the American National; T. Ray Theurer, immediate past president of the Utah association; Tom Field, Gunnison, president of the Colorado Cattlemen's Association; A. K. Barton of the Utah Agriculture Commission, and Milford Vaught, president of the Idaho Cattlemen's Association.



## Our Great America ☆ by Woody



spector, who said New Mexico is going ahead with brucellosis clean-up, and Dave Appleton, Producer editor.

At a quarterly meeting of the **Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association** in early December, Edgar Hudgins, Hungerford, Tex., vice-president and chairman of the association's animal health committee, advised the members to start a herd brucellosis vaccination program immediately. The directors passed a resolution indorsing work on carcass classing and meat grading studies and asked for continued studies at the Texas A. & M. College.

A regulation by the Mississippi Sanitary Board calling for compulsory test of cattle, hogs, sheep and goats for brucellosis at stockyards prior to sale, which was to go into effect Nov. 1, was shelved for further study. The **Mississippi Cattlemen's Association** and other groups objected to the rules as impractical and not the answer to solving the brucellosis problem.

The **Colorado Cattle Feeders** on Jan. 2 re-elected Martin R. Domke of Greeley to the presidency. Louis Bein of Berthoud is executive first vice-president; Lee Dalton of Eaton, Harvey Bolinger of Ft. Morgan, Dave Wilhelm of Denver and Art Brown of Ft. Collins, vice-presidents.



## From Vitamins To Hay

Recently reported experiments at Iowa State College show cattle given a third more phosphorus than is usually recommended gained an average of almost 3 pounds per day as against about 2½ pounds for those fed the normal amount. The cattle reportedly gained on less feed at less cost per pound of gain, and graded higher when slaughtered.

\* \* \*

Ranchers in the northern Great Plains can rapidly improve their range-lands, lengthen the grazing time, and distribute livestock more effectively over grazing areas by applying 90 pounds of nitrogen annually. These findings are based on field trials over six years by USDA agronomists at the U.S. Northern Great Plains Field Station at Mandan, N.D. More specifically, the dry matter yield of forage in this study averaged 2,271 pounds per acre when 90 pounds of nitrogen were applied annually, 1,326 pounds of forage with 30 pounds of nitrogen, and an average of only 748 pounds without nitrogen. This study also showed that vegetative cover of western wheatgrass increased by 46 per cent with the 90-pound application of nitrogen and it increased significantly the percentage of crude protein in the range herbage.

\* \* \*

Higher-than-normal needs for vitamins in livestock can be inherited, according to research with mice at the Oregon State College agricultural experiment station. If these higher needs aren't met, the offspring die, say the two OSC animal husbandmen who worked with four strains of mice which were crossed in the experiments. At weaning time, several of the young stopped growing, and in these cases it was found that one parent always had high thyroid activity, indicating a faster-than-normal use of vitamins, and the other parent passed on only normal ability to digest and store vitamins. The result: offspring that used vitamins faster than they could get them from the ration normally fed. Normal growth was resumed when B-complex vitamins were added to the feed of these suppressed-growth mice. Many of these mice were able to survive but could reproduce only if extra B vitamins were added to their diet.

The researchers believe it possible that this higher-than-usual vitamin need may sometimes cause losses or slow early gains of young livestock and that scouring and rough coats may also be stopped by vitamin treatment. Also, since need for vitamins can be inherited, livestock breeding animals may need to be selected under rigorous range conditions rather than from a feedlot.

\* \* \*

A study of a comparison of three methods of grinding corn for steers at the Illinois Experiment Station revealed there were no significant dif-

ferences in the amounts of grain consumed or in gains in weight of the steers. All cattle were hand-fed. In 1953, ear corn was ground to equal fineness in a hammermill and a burr mill; in 1954, ear corn was ground to similar fineness by a hammermill, a burr mill and a knife mill. Shelled corn used in 1955 was ground with a hammermill and burr mill. The cattle refused some of the large cob particles in the hammermill ground feed, but this factor did not affect total grain consumption nor increase cost of gains.

\* \* \*

At the University of Nevada, it has been found that wintering beef calves which were fed hay harvested at an early stage of maturity gained significantly more than calves fed hay harvested later. During the following summer, however, the retarded cattle increased their growth rate to such a degree that they were as heavy the following fall as the non-retarded group. Also disclosed: cattle individually fed during the winter gained faster the next summer than similar cattle group-fed during the winter.

\* \* \*

After conducting two-year feeding trials with yearling steers, the University of Wyoming at Laramie reports that beet pulp, with urea added to it, brought gains about equal to those on steers fed soybean oilmeal. The researchers added enough urea to the beet pulp before drying to raise the crude-protein content to about 12 per cent. In the two-year period, four lots of steers fed ureated beet pulp gained an average of 2.33 pounds a day as compared with 2.38 pounds for four lots of steers fed the same ration plus ½ to 1 pound of soybean oilmeal. Feed costs per 100 pounds of gain were similar for the two groups of animals, but the higher levels of beet pulp in the ration decreased feed costs per unit of gain.

## MEAT TENDERNESS INHERITABILITY SEEN

USDA research shows meat tenderness is inherited in animals and can be passed to succeeding generations through selective breeding. In experiments at the agricultural research center in Beltsville, Md., chiefly with rabbits but with some beef cattle, tenderness in rabbits was found to have a "heritability factor" of about 53 per cent and in beef cattle about 41 per cent, the percentages representing the degree to which tenderness is determined by genetic differences. Other factors that also influence meat tenderness in individual animals to a great extent include age, sex, management practices and fatness.

## THE COVER

Winter chow-time for cattle on the Charles Fox ranch at Fraser, Colo., "the icebox of the nation." Willi Mueller of Denver took the photo.

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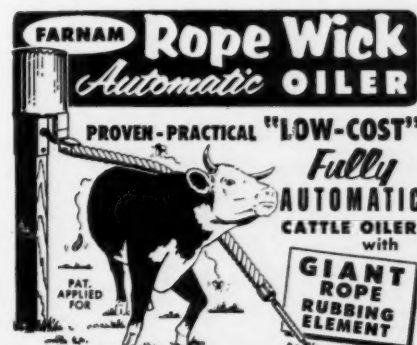
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## DENVER SHOW ENTRIES LISTED

Tabulation of entries for the 1957 National Western Stock Show at Denver Jan. 11-19 shows 1,207 cattle entered in the breeding classes and 129 steers in the fat classes. Herefords lead the lists with 679 in the breeding classes and 67 for the fat steer show; Angus run second with 375 and 41 animals, respectively, and Shorthorns represent the remainder with 154 and 21 animals, respectively. Herefords also lead the junior show division. Show officials expect to have 1,700 range bulls in the yards entered for show and sale. The regular run of market cattle during show week will be an estimated 10,000 feeder calves and yearlings through the Denver yards plus 16,000 fat cattle, including the 20 or more carloads entered in the show.

## IDAHO SHOW WINNERS

At the Captiol Show of Idaho in Boise the grand champion chosen over 35 other steers in the interbreed competition was shown by Roger Rothrock of Adams, Ore.; the animal had earlier been selected champion of the Hereford division. The reserve grand champion steer, also a Hereford, was owned by Hermon Tobler of Nampa, Ida.

## POLLED HEREFORD NEWS

At Little Rock, Ark., several weeks ago the National Polled Hereford sale saw 59 lots sell for a total of \$101,965 for an average of \$1,745, with 25 bulls averaging \$3,015 and 34 females \$782. The champion sale bull brought \$15,200 and the champion female of the sale sold at \$3,750.

At Little Rock on Nov. 29 the American Polled Hereford Association

elected John Shiflet of Red Rock, Okla., to the presidency; he succeeds J. Ernest Lambert of Darlington, Ala. M. P. Moore of Senatobia, Miss., was named the vice-president.

Effective Jan. 1, the American Polled Hereford Association increases the registration rates for cattle over 12 months of age; for recording cattle less than a year old, the rates will remain the same. The increase on animals 12 to 18 months of age will be from \$3 to \$5 a head; for cattle 18 to 24 months, rates will go from \$6 to \$10 per head. For non-member registrations, these rates will rise from \$6 to \$10 and from \$12 to \$20, respectively. The changes are a result of board-of-director action at the annual meeting of the Polled Hereford organization.

## SHORTHORN MEN ELECT

More than 300 persons attended last month's annual meeting in Chicago of the American Shorthorn Breeders Association and elected W. H. Dilatush of Memphis, Tenn., their new president. Mr. Dilatush was also named to one of the new directorships in the association.

## HEREFORDS IN LIMELIGHT AT LOS ANGELES SHOW

At the Great Western Livestock Show in Los Angeles some weeks ago, 13-year-old Jay Peterson showed a 920-pound Hereford to the grand championship; reserve grand champion honors went to a 990-pound Hereford steer bred and shown by Herbert Chandler of Baker, Ore. The grand champion steer sold at auction for \$3 per pound,

and the reserve animal brought 75 cents a pound. In the fat carload division, Hereford steers shown by the Wasco Union High School of Wasco, Calif. were named grand champions.

In the Hereford breeding show at the Great Western event, the bull champion was shown by Corona Hereford Ranch, Corona, Calif. The reserve champion came from Double L Hereford Ranch, Encinitas, Calif. In female competition, Wilmar Farms of Rosamond, Calif. had the champion; Circle L Ranch of Dyer, Nev. the reserve champion.

## HEREFORDS AT CHICAGO

In the Hereford breeding show of Chicago's International Livestock Exposition in late November, championships went to three states; a total of 220 head was shown by 27 exhibitors from 16 states in all. Portage Farms, Woodville, O. took championship honors in the bull division on a junior yearling and the reserve champion was a junior yearling shown by Hi-Point Farms, Brighton, Mich. In the female division top honors were taken on a junior yearling exhibited by McCormich Farms, Medina, O., and the Wyoming Hereford Ranch of Cheyenne showed a junior heifer to the reserve spot. Albert K. Mitchell, president of the American Hereford Association and the International Live Stock Exposition, presented the grand champion bull trophy to Owner Joseph Schedel; Paul Swaffer, American Hereford secretary, presented the female trophy.

## ANGUS ASSN. CHANGES NAME, ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

In their annual gathering at Chicago recently, members of the Aberdeen-Angus Breeders Association voted to change the name of the organization to American Angus Association. The official registry group for Angus cattle now has a membership of more than 32,000 and is headquartered at St. Joseph, Mo.

In the election which took place during the meeting, John C. Gall of Upperville, Va. was named president; Elliot Brown of Rose Hill, Ia., vice-president; Secretary of the association is Frank Richards.

## POLLED SHORTHORNS SELL IN CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL

At Chicago, the International Polled Shorthorn sale saw 24 lots sell for a total of \$16,950 to average \$706; 13 bulls figured \$804, 11 females \$591. The champion bull brought the top price of \$3,000; the animal will be exported to New Zealand. The female champion set the top price for a female at \$1,775.

## 89 COLORADO HEREFORD BULLS BRING TOTAL OF \$37,520

In a Hereford bull sale at Colorado Springs last month, the Colorado Cattlemen's Association marked up an average of \$422 on 89 bulls for a total of \$37,520. The top bull price of \$1,100



Officers of the American Angus Association, elected at the annual meeting Nov. 28 in Chicago (l. to r.) seated: John C. Gall, Upperville, Va., president; Elliott Brown, Rose Hill, Ia., vice-president; Major W. A. Rafferty, Morocco, Ind., treasurer, and Frank Richards, St. Joseph, Mo., secretary. Directors are (standing, l. to r.): B. C. Cotton, Dry Ridge, Ky.; James R. Hancock, New Franklin, Mo.; W. W. Brainard, Jr., Far Hills, N. J.; Don C. Pollock, Unionville, Mo.; Edward O. Elliott, Mt. Victory, Ohio; Herbert Cline, Bussey, Ia.; William J. Kuhfuss, Mackinaw, Ill.; Duane Clark, Worthing, S. D.; Harold Rankin, Hermiston, Ore.; Joe Keefauver, Jonesboro, Tenn., and Lewis B. Pierce, Creston, Ill. Another director, George Graham, Wichita Falls, Tex., was not present. (Photo by American Angus Assn.)



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## PRODUCER

was paid to F. A. Field & Son of Par-  
shall by Bethel Hereford Ranch at  
Kremmling; the top heifer price was  
\$1,125, paid by Elwood Miller of Eliza-  
beth to Rod Hindman of Kremmling.

### HOUSTON SHOW COMING UP

A group representing the 1957 Hous-  
ton Fat Stock Show has returned from  
a 16-day tour of South America. The  
men traveled more than 14,000 miles,  
meeting with agricultural and livestock  
leaders in Peru, Argentina, Uruguay,  
Paraguay and Brazil. The Houston show  
will celebrate its silver anniversary  
Feb. 20-Mar. 3.

### ANGUS NEWS NOTES

The second annual tour sponsored  
by the American Angus Association  
will visit Scotland and the famous  
Perth stock show Feb. 4-6. Partici-  
pants in the tour will leave New York  
Jan. 31.

Fifty Angus bulls were purchased  
from the herd at Texas A.&M. College  
last month for export to a ranch at  
Durango, Mexico. Thirty-four Angus  
were also obtained from another source  
for the same destination.

At Chicago's International Live Stock  
Exposition, Angus animals took a num-  
ber of important prizes, including top  
spot in the junior steer show, grand  
champion carcass, grand champion  
group of three steers and grand cham-  
pion carload of steers.

In the International "Show Window"  
Angus sale, 50 lots averaged \$1,229 and  
totaled \$61,435. Seven bulls averaged  
\$1,055; 43 females \$1,257. Over-all fig-  
ures for the sale showed a total of  
\$68,330 on 62 lots for an average of  
\$1,102. The female and sale top brought  
\$6,400; the top bull sold at \$2,500.

### SANTA GERTRUDIS IN NEWS

For the first time in history, Santa  
Gertrudis breeding animals will be  
shown at a national livestock show in  
Arizona. Twelve top quality bulls and  
females from the King Ranch in Texas,  
where the breed was originated, will be  
exhibited Jan. 2-5 at the Arizona Na-  
tional Livestock Show in Phoenix.

The annual membership meeting of  
the Santa Gertrudis Breeders Inter-  
national is to be held Apr. 12, 1957  
in San Antonio, Tex.

### TURNER SALE FIGURES

Purebred Hereford breeders from 15  
states invested a total of \$166,535 in 51  
head offered in the TR Zato Heir pro-  
duction sale at Turner Ranch, Sulphur,  
Okla., in mid-December. Thirty-one  
bulls averaged \$4,256 in a total of  
\$131,935; 20 females totaled \$29,600 to  
average \$1,480, and the over-all sale  
average was \$3,167. Half-interest in the  
top selling bull went for \$15,000; the  
top individual bull in the sale brought  
\$20,000. The female top price was  
\$3,000.

# SALES

**FEB.  
19  
UTAH**

## PETERSON BROS. 11TH ANNUAL SALE

100 Range Bulls, plus several choice Herd Bull Prospects; 200 Females  
at private treaty sale.

Peterson Bros., Herefords of Quality, Box 308, Ogden, Utah; Elko, Nev.  
Write early for catalog

**FEB.  
25  
OKLA.**

### SHIFLET-SATTERFIELD sale of REGISTERED POLLED HEREFORDS

20 BULLS; 40 FEMALES at Pryor, Okla.  
Mayes County Fair Grounds—East on No. 20  
FEBRUARY 25; 12 noon

Will sell top 50 head out of 100 we both had for two-day sale. Rest  
for sale at private treaty. One of best quality sales held in Oklahoma  
by two of Oklahoma's breeders. For catalog: W. S. Satterfield, Pryor,  
Okla., or John Shiflet, Red Rock, Okla. See Hereford publications for  
details. Come see cattle at Pryor NOW.

**BREEDERS:** Use Producer "Calendar Ads" for the economi-  
cal and sure way to reach rangemen buyers.  
All "Calendar Ads" are the same size, thereby drawing equal attention. Cost  
is nominal. Write to American Cattle Producer, 801 East 17th Ave., Denver  
18, Colo. Phone AMherst 6-2330.

# BULLS

FOR SALE AT PRIVATE TREATY

## FRANKLIN HEREFORDS

A reliable source of practical, depend-  
able registered Hereford breeding  
stock. Yearling bulls for sale now.

B. P. Franklin  
Meeker, Colo.

WE HAVE 25 long yearling bulls, the kind top ranchers like.  
30 threes and fours this spring ready to begin calving March 10 and  
100 younger females for sale. See them and us.

**F. E. MESSERSMITH & SONS, Alliance, Nebr.**

"Our Herefords build the beef where the highest priced cuts of meat grow."

Aberdeen-Angus Cattle, purebred and commerical  
**N BAR RANCH Grassrange, Mont.**

## CHANDLER HEREFORDS

Range Bulls of Uniform Quality in Carload Lots

Herbert Chandler

Baker, Oregon



The American Hereford Association served as host to these 10 county agents and vocational agricultural instructors during the American Royal show in Kansas City. Selected for their outstanding contributions to livestock and agriculture, and particularly to the improvement of the beef cattle industry, were (l. to r.): Andy Duffle, director of youth activities, American Hereford Association; Don Waliser, vo-ag instructor, Amanda, O.; Ed C. Schwitzky, county agent, Higginsville, Mo.; H. Burkett Hedgepeth, assistant

county agent, Laurel, Miss.; J. L. McMullan, vo-ag instructor, Jefferson, Ga.; Frank N. Newsom, county agent, Alpine, Tex.; Paul Swaffar, secretary, American Hereford Association; Raymond H. Eilers, county agent, Winner, S. D.; J. H. Copenhaver, vo-ag instructor, Wytheville, Va.; E. L. Woods, county agent, Prineville, Ore.; Mitchel Nidever, vo-ag instructor, McFarland, Calif., and Charles E. Kirk, county agent, Castle Rock, Colo. (Photo by American Hereford Assn.)

### IDAHO BULL AVERAGE \$331

The Idaho Cattlemen's Association fall range bull auction at Weiser last month saw 35 animals total \$11,595 for an average price of \$331. The top bull in this eighth annual event sold at \$480. The average for "A" bulls in the sale was set at \$427.50; "A-minus", \$331.25; "B" \$337.25, and "B-minus" bulls \$259.29.

### GERTRUDIS TO SHOW IN TAMPA

The King Ranch of Texas will show beef cattle in Florida for the first time when it sends 12 top breeding animals to the Florida State Fair in Tampa, Feb. 4-9. The animals will be on display only, since King Ranch does not show in competition against other Santa Gertrudis breeders; King Ranch is the originator and developer of the breed, which has in recent years spread to some 32 states and 31 foreign countries. The Florida Fair is expected to draw some 90 purebred Santa Gertrudis entries, in the show which has been designated as the National Santa Gertrudis Show for 1957 by the Santa Gertrudis Breeders International.

### BRAHMAN ACTIVITIES

On November 1 the American Brahman Breeders Association officially moved into its new headquarters at 4815 Gulf Freeway, Houston 23, Tex. Open house will be held during the Houston Fat Stock Show and the breed organization's annual membership meeting.

In a group of animals shipped recently to Peru for exhibit and auction, eight Brahmans of ABBA registry sold for an average of \$1,032.89. A 19-month-old Brahman bull from Florida took top money of \$1,578.95.

### NEW MEAT BOARD BOOK

"Eating for Your Baby-to-Be" is the title of a new 24-page booklet on proper eating habits during pregnancy. Research on the value of meat in the diet during pregnancy was the basis for the reliable recommendations made in the booklet, which is issued by the National Live Stock and Meat Board, Chicago.

## Dr. Kester's Speech

(Continued from Page 13)

The most common and generally the best arrangement is our American competitive system of free enterprise where you may call upon your local practitioner at will. However, that practitioner lives in a competitive world also and naturally responds to the greater call. Consequently, sometimes to your own disadvantage you are competing with other interests for his services.

The other way you stand to gain the most from this profession is through more and better research. This is a general and mutual problem that only a large scale cooperative and concerted effort can solve.

With an estimated annual toll of \$2.7 billion due to animal diseases and parasites there is no question but there is yet much to be done in research. Specialization in agriculture makes disease problems even more complex as does the constant increase in livestock numbers. History has proven that as livestock populations increase the incidence of disease likewise increases but on an even greater proportion.

ACCORDING to USDA Agriculture Research Service reports, this year more than \$249 million of public funds—state and federal—are going into agriculture research and regulatory program. Of this amount, \$28 million is specifically for animal disease research including \$16½ million for new facilities. This leaves only \$11½ million (out of \$249 million, about 4½ per cent) to operate veterinary research programs, both state and federal.

At the national level, \$1 out of every \$17 appropriated for agricultural research is spent in veterinary research. Of the federal grants to state experiment stations, \$1 out of every \$20 is going to animal disease research and in state funds the average is \$1 out of \$24.

Out of \$29½ million in federal grant funds to state experiment stations for research programs this year it is estimated that only \$1½ million, or not

quite 5 per cent, will be expended on veterinary research.

Animal on farms today are valued at around \$11 billion. Livestock and livestock products account for 54 per cent of the income from all farm commodities. Yet last year's agricultural research budget (state and federal) amounted to \$32¼ million for livestock as against \$52.1 million for crop research. This represents an animal research expenditure of about 0.2 per cent of the value of the livestock industry and 0.4 per cent of the value of the crop industry. No business in the world plows so small a percentage back into research.

**More money must be obtained and used on animal disease research. These funds in general can come only through federal and state appropriations. It is you and your industry that are being penalized by this lack of research.**

There are many bottlenecks in animal disease research, all of them seemingly stemming from lack of funds for this specific purpose. This knowledge impels many of our profession to become engaged with legislation.

This is something cattlemen can do, must do, in furthering his own interests. Here is an area, a very vital area, in which our two great associations can and must work together. It is a rare session when any of the state or national legislative bodies do not consider bill or appropriations that affect the cattle industry. It behooves all of us to watch and give guidance to our respective legislators in providing and earmarking much greater amounts of money for the expanding animal disease research program so urgently needed in this country.

The Agricultural Research Service in particular needs more support in research funds and veterinary research personnel. Amazing as it may seem, there now appears to be a determined move on foot for expanding USDA in the direction of taking over army veterinary functions and further saddling the Agricultural Research Service with this non-research, non-agricultural military chore—a move that might not be in the best interests of your association.



**IN BRIEF**, your tax dollar gets lost in the research shuffle. The toll taken by animal diseases and parasites is \$2.7 billion annually. As livestock owners, divide that amount by your number and you can see that it may be costing you the difference between a profit and a loss in your operation. Or, as a citizen, divide that amount by our population and see how it might be affecting your grocery bill. It comes out \$16 apiece for every man, woman and child in this country.

Why all this loss? Partly because the livestock man is not fully using the scientific knowledge available to him, but mostly because sufficient research has not been done to give him the knowledge and materials he needs to prevent these losses.

Why no research? Mostly because the man most concerned, the livestock man, has not demanded it.

Where does your tax dollar go in research? Over \$249 million of public funds are going into agriculture research and regulatory programs this year—only about 4½ per cent\* of which will be used in veterinary research. Out of \$29.5 million in federal grants to state experiment stations this year, less than 5 per cent\* will be used in veterinary research.

Yet livestock accounts for 54 per cent\* of the total farm income—and the biggest single threat and tax on the livestock industry today is the still unsolved riddle of animal diseases—a riddle that can only be solved through research and a riddle that will not be solved until you, the livestock man, demand and persistently insist year after year that ample funds be provided and spent on such research.

I have stressed here the importance of appropriated funds. Yet, we all know that government research alone is not the sole answer. You in the cattle industry have undertaken and supported some excellent research programs. The veterinary profession, too, has conducted extensive research programs guided and financially supported by veterinarians. It may be that the government, the cattle industry and the veterinary profession are following separate paths to separate goals, yet the goals expressed are the same.

We as individuals through our two great associations cooperating face a golden opportunity. We can combine the current operational problems and practical ideas of the cattleman with the clinical evaluation and research know-how of the veterinary profession and bring them into proper focus in this research effort, and we can supply needed cohesion, critical guidance, impetus and the continuing organized support so essential to this service.

(\*From data presented to the Association of Land Grant College and Universities, Nov. 13, 1956, by M. R. Clarkson, Deputy Administrator, Agricultural Research Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture.)

Here's a simple explanation of what the soil bank is. It includes two programs: the "acreage reserve" program and the "conservation reserve" program.

The acreage reserve is supposed to reduce production of corn, wheat, rice, cotton, peanuts and tobacco. Farmers may sign one-year contracts not to grow these things on certain acreages, and for that they get certificates to pay for the income lost. If the farmer wants to, cost-sharing practices may be used on the retired land under the existing agricultural conservation program. Payments made to farmers under the reserve program amounted to some 228 million as of Nov. 23.

The conservation program is supported to protect soil, water, forests and wildlife. Lands that come under this program are those used for crops, even those that do not need annual tillage, such as tame hay. Non crop-land used for pasture, land already in the acreage reserve and federal land do not qualify.

Farmers may use both acreage reserve and conservation reserve, but not on the same land.

By completing one of the conservation practices on land put in the conservation reserve, a farmer can get up to 80 per cent of what it costs him to complete a practice such as putting in permanent cover for soil protection; treating farm land to permit use of legumes and grasses for soil improvement; planting trees or shrubs; building dams, pits or ponds to protect cover crops or hold irrigation water, protect wildlife by cover, water management or dam and pond construction.

The farmer gets an annual rental for his land for the contract period besides the cost-sharing for completing the practice. Contracts range from three to five years for land already in vegetative cover; five to 10 where the cover is to be put on, and 10 to 15 where the land is to be planted in trees.

#### BOVINE SEMEN FERTILE AFTER 3 YEARS COLD STORAGE

Frozen semen samples from five bulls were found to be fertile after storage for three years in a dry ice chest, according to the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association. A microscopic examination of some samples showed no noticeable loss of active motile spermatozoa after storage for this length of time. However, by contrast, other frozen samples in the same group showed only small numbers of weakly motile sperm or none at all. Among 40 cows inseminated with this frozen semen, 15 were found pregnant 90 days after insemination. As a matter of interest, the veterinary medical report points out that two of the sires used had been dead for over a year at the time of the insemination.

#### YOU'RE SO RIGHT!

The average man is so busy trying to meet payments on the luxuries of life that he has to do without the necessities.



At the Florida Cattlemen's Association convention in mid-November at Ft. Pierce: (l. to r.) Don Collins, president of the American National Cattlemen's Association and featured speaker at the meeting; W. D. Roberts, Immokalee, Fla., and Ben Hill Griffin, Jr., Frostproof, Fla.

## Talk about WHR merit

You see it at  
first glance:

- Bred-in strength
- Early maturity
- Uniformity
- Greater gains
- Maximum beef

**Wyoming Hereford  
Ranch**  
Cheyenne



#### WHEATLAND RANCH

Aberdeen-Angus Breeding Stock  
For Sale

James B. Hollinger Chapman, Kan.

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Pres., Norman Barlow, Cora  
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## Personal Mention

**Russell B. McKennan**, Denver, regional head of the Rocky Mountain region of the Forest Service, has been promoted to inspector in the chief forester's office in Washington, D. C. . . .

**James P. Reddick**, supervising highway engineer in the Denver regional office of the Forest Service, retired Dec. 31 after more than 46 years of service, practically all in forests in the Rocky Mountain region.

**Leon R. Thomas**, supervisor of Sierra National Forest, has been promoted to the position of assistant regional forester in charge of fire control for the southern region, with headquarters in Atlanta, Ga.

**R. C. Pollock**, Chicago, retired general manager of the National Livestock and Meat Board, suffered back injuries when his automobile left the road while he was driving to Iowa for the holidays. Newspaper reports say he walked away from the accident but will be hospitalized for some time.

**Dr. G. H. Good**, state veterinarian of Wyoming, was recently elected president of the U. S. Livestock Sanitary Association.

**Earle G. Reed**, general livestock agent for Union Pacific Railroad for the past 15 years, retired Dec. 31. Mr. Reed began working for railroads in 1919. He is well known among cattlemen and has been a constant attendant at livestock association meetings.

## Obituaries

**Henry P. Hansen**: Mr. Hansen, a lifetime rancher of Nebraska and the state association's fifth president, died suddenly in North Platte last month; he was 69. A native Nebraskan, he served two terms as head of the Nebraska Stock Growers, starting in 1938, and was a five-term member of the Nebraska Legislature.

**Richard H. Rutledge**: This former regional forester out of Ogden and one-time director of grazing succumbed to a heart ailment recently at age 83. He served 40 years with the government, starting with the Forest Service in Idaho. He retired from the directorship of the Bureau of Land Management in 1944. Mr. Rutledge was known as a friend of the stockmen who understood and appreciated their problems.

**Walter H. Lloyd**: The general manager of Livestock Conservation, Inc., at Chicago, passed away suddenly after a heart attack on Dec. 18. He was 80 years old, and a past president of the American Agricultural Editors Association.

**Mrs. Georgia Collins MacWhirter**: Mrs. Collins, sister of American National President Don C. Collins and daughter of Charles E. Collins who headed the National in 1932-35, passed away in Denver after a brief illness at the age of 61. Survivors include, besides Mr. Collins, her mother, Mrs. Charles Collins of Kit Carson, Colo., and a sister, Mrs. Pauline C. Stewart of Arcadia, Calif.

## The State Presidents



Mr. Reynolds

Most of the ranch operated by Don B. Reynolds, president of the Nebraska Stock Growers Association, is in the Sandhills area south and west of North Platte. Mr. Reynolds has been on the ranch for 25 years; alfalfa, irrigated corn

and wet hay are raised on the Platte Valley eight miles southeast of North Platte where the ranch headquarters is. Commercial cattle are raised for the Reynolds feedlot; mostly Herefords are run, with a small herd of 100 Angus cows.

"I think the problems of our state

are perhaps the same as many others," says this Nebraskan. "We have problems in range management, research, health and sanitation, and certainly that of taxation and beef promotion."

Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds have two children. Don, Jr., and his wife Patricia have three children; they live on and operate the Sandhill ranches and live 25 miles from the home ranch. Daughter Margaret is married to Rancher James L. Curtis, Jr. of Saguache, Colo., and they have two youngsters.

Mr. Reynolds is a past president of the North Platte Rotary Club, a former member of the Nebraska Brand Committee and at present a member of the state advisory board of the Farmers Home Administration. He is a graduate of the college of business administration, University of Nebraska.

**JOIN THE MARCH OF DIMES IN JANUARY**



## ICC Grants Rate Hike

The Interstate Commerce Commission has authorized freight rate increases of 7 per cent for eastern railroads and 5 per cent for western roads. A maximum of 5 per cent, however, was specified on livestock, fresh meats and packinghouse products.

A request by southern railroads for a 7 per cent emergency increase was scheduled for hearing Jan. 7.

The boost comes on top of a general 6 per cent raise (again 5 per cent on livestock) granted last March. The eastern and western roads have petitioned for a 15 per cent general freight rate increase in addition to the emergency boost.

\* \* \*

The proposal for a freight rate cut in the westbound meat rate case was recently referred by the freight traffic managers committee of the Transcontinental Freight Bureau back to a standing rate committee for further study. The standing rate committee had recommended on the basis of previous study that the application be denied by the freight traffic managers.



**NEED SNOW**—This area is ready for some snow as we've had a good rain storm so far this month (Dec.) and is above normal in precipitation. Some other areas of the state are in dire need of a good storm.—**Samuel C. McMullen**, Sec., Nevada State Cattle Association, Elko.

**UNUSUAL COMPLIMENT**—I have enjoyed your journal immensely, as a great deal of the information contained has helped educate me in many cattle techniques. A pity the magazine is not a little larger. One just begins to get really interested when the end comes!—**K. R. Cooper**, Wogan Valley, N.S.W. Australia.

**GLAD TO OBLIGE**—Wondering where my November PRODUCER went to. Sure do like it—it's a swell little paper. Will you please see that I get a November issue? Thank you.—**Fred Dugas**, Mayer, Ariz.

**ANTICIPATION**—All in Arizona are looking forward to the 60th annual, next month. Northern Arizona still very dry.—**John D. Freeman**, Prescott, Ariz.

**WEATHER VARIED**—The summer was dry; no hay put up around here. We had lots of snow in November. Most of it is gone now. Cattle doing very good; very little feeding so far. I certainly enjoy your magazine; am enclosing check for subscription.—**Harold Burch**, Oshoto, Wyo.

## Secretary's Report

(Continued from Page 10)

of brevity, withhold further comment on them.

**IN THE BEGINNING** the American National was organized largely to protect the interests of the cattlemen. Its activities consisted primarily of fighting for the rights of those engaged in the business. Activities of the packers, the stockyards, the railroads, all were viewed with considerable misgivings and distrust. We were battling for our rights and were known widely as a fighting outfit.

Down through the years there has developed a growing realization of the value of cooperation, of working for something in an amiable way, rather than most always opposing something that someone else was trying to do.

Our committees have expanded both in number and activities. The association is now progressively working toward a better industry. We have our Public Relations Committee, our Research Committee, the Feeder Committee and the Cattle and Beef Industry Committee, where producers, packers, retailers work out mutual problems in an atmosphere of cooperation.

But don't take it from these remarks

that we are not still a fighting outfit. We offer the gloved hand first, but if anyone attempts to take advantage of it we are as always, ready, willing and able to fight for our rights.

## On The Cattle Feeding Front

**CATTLE FEEDING** tests recently in the news have included a considerable amount of work with stilbestrol in various institutions. The estimate is that some 5 million cattle were fattened the first nine months of this year with stilbestrol-containing feeds.

At Michigan State University's department of animal husbandry, a pellet implant combined of two natural hormones—progesterone and estradiol—boosted weight gains at least ½ pound additionally per day, at lower cost per pound of gain. Feed consumption per 100 pounds of gain was lower for implanted steers, indicating greater feed efficiency because of the natural hormone stimulation.

\* \* \*

**IN BEEF CATTLE** fattening experiments in Illinois stilbestrol implants have increased gains and lowered feed costs, but slaughter grades and carcass quality have been low-

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ered somewhat by the hormone. Researchers are not fully agreed about all the effects of stilbestrol on carcasses, but most available evidence shows that there is no effect, either favorable or unfavorable, on dressing per cent, shrink or general carcass excellence. The Illinois findings were that graders of live cattle tend to overestimate the slaughter grades of hormone-treated cattle more than those of untreated cattle.

THE NORTH DAKOTA Agricultural College extension service reports beef gains by implanting stilbestrol pellets in the ears of feeder cattle are greater than when the drug is included in the feed mix. The implant method is said to offer accurate dosage control, lower treatment cost, make different protein supplements unnecessary for other livestock and permit cattle that do not need added protein to be treated with stilbestrol pellets with beneficial results. On the other hand, feeding stilbestrol in protein supplements saves time, labor and equipment, and protein supplements are usually needed in the ration anyway.

TRIALS with stilbestrol throughout the country indicate stilbestrol is very effective in drylot fattening rations. Research in Ohio shows, however, stilbestrol is effective in stimulating gains only when the rations contain enough protein.

IN WYOMING Experiment Station research body gains of yearling steers increased 31 per cent after 36 milligrams of stilbestrol were implanted at the base of the ear of each animal; but the same dosage implanted in yearling heifers resulted in only a 7 per cent increase in gain. Use of the hormone stilbestrol increased weight gains of test cattle on grass in Wyoming only 10½ to 12 per cent. Use of the drug is not recommended for general use at this time because it has been approved only for beef animals on fattening rations, by the federal Food and Drug Administration. Following implantation of stilbestrol, the Wyoming steers were reported to be very restless for about a week.

AT WASHINGTON State College a study was made to determine value of stilbestrol with alfalfa soilage (green alfalfa brought in from the field) for fattening yearling steers. Cattle receiving stilbestrol gained 2.10 pounds per head daily as compared with 1.69 pounds per day for other animals. However, added cost of stilbestrol resulted in about equal costs per pound of gain. No prominent undesirable carcass characteristics at slaughter were noted in the stilbestrol-fed cattle, but their average selling price was 59 cents per 100 pounds under that of animals not given stilbestrol.

IN GEORGIA experiments highly significant increased gains were

noted in cattle receiving stilbestrol over animals not treated.

AMONG OTHER FEEDING experiment results reported were those of the Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station relative to supplements to high-silage rations for fattening yearling steers. Stilbestrol fed at the rate of 10 milligrams per head daily significantly improved gains and was more beneficial when fed throughout the trial than when fed only during the finishing phase.

AT MONTANA Agricultural Station and U. S. Range Station, range steers fed stilbestrol continuously through both the summer and winter phases and for the summer phase only made significantly greater gains for the total period than steers not receiving stilbestrol.

## Cattle on Fattening Ration More Susceptible To Red Nose

Cattle on fattening rations seem to be more susceptible to "red nose" disease than cattle on a maintenance ration, according to Colorado A & M. research. In tests at Fort Collins, one lot of cattle was put on a maintenance ration; a second on fattening feeds. Forty days later both lots were inoculated with rhinotracheitis, which is the technical name for red nose.

Animals on the fattening ration showed a significantly higher incidence of red nose than those on the maintenance ration. Veterinarians now hope to find out why the fattening ration increases susceptibility; where the disease-causing virus survives, and if there are "carrier" animals. They are also testing several commercially produced vaccines.

Seldom fatal, red nose has a severe economic impact. It prompted the Colorado Cattle Feeders Association to provide the salary for a veterinarian to study the disease in cooperation with A. & M. scientists.

## BEEF BOOSTERS

The National Beef Council is offering stickers which can be used on correspondence, invoices, etc., to promote the sale of beef. They may be obtained at nominal cost from the council at 406 W. 34th St., Kansas City 11, Mo.

## "BEEF STATE" ACTION

Nebraska Beef Council officers at a recent meeting in Omaha decided to back the idea of keeping "Beef State" on Nebraska auto plates. Council officer election was deferred to a later meeting. Chairman of the council is Chet Paxton, Thedford.

The 1955 Annual report of the Forest Service shows there were more than 45 million visits to the national forests.



Jan. 7-9, 1957—60th annual convention, AMERICAN NATIONAL CATTLEMEN'S ASSN., Phoenix, Ariz.  
Jan. 11-19—National Western Stock Show, Denver, Colo.  
Jan. 18-19—Alabama Cattlemen's Association, Birmingham  
Jan. 21-23—Mississippi Cattlemen's annual meeting, Jackson.  
Jan. 25-Feb. 3—Southwestern Exposition & Fat Stock Show, Ft. Worth, Tex.  
Jan. 30—American Society of Range Management, meeting at Great Falls, Mont.  
Feb. 7-8—Oklahoma Cattlemen's convention, Oklahoma City.  
Feb. 7-8—Georgia Livestock Assn. convention, Albany, Ga.  
Feb. 11-12—Louisiana Cattlemen's convention, Baton Rouge.  
Feb. 14-15—Livestock Conservation, Inc. & National Brucellosis Committee, at Chicago.  
Feb. 18-21—11th annual meeting, Western States Meat Packers Assn., San Francisco.  
Feb. 20-Mar. 3—Silver Anniversary, Houston Fat Stock Show.  
Mar. 4—Nat'l Farm & Ranch Congress, Denver.  
Mar. 4-6—22nd North American Wildlife Conference, Washington, D. C.  
Mar. 18-20—Convention, Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers, Houston.  
Mar. 24-26—43rd meeting, New Mexico Cattle Growers, Albuquerque.  
May 6-8—Oregon Cattlemen's convention, Eugene.  
May 9-11—Washington Cattlemen's convention, Wenatchee.  
May 12-14—Idaho Cattlemen's convention, Lewiston.  
June 3-5—66th South Dakota Stock Growers' convention, Pierre.  
June 6-8—Wyoming Stock Growers' convention, Lander.  
June 10-12—North Dakota Stockmen's convention, Dickinson.  
Sept. 11-12—Louisiana Cattlemen's convention, Baton Rouge.

## CHICAGO LIVESTOCK PRICES

	Dec. 26, 1956	Dec. 27, 1955
Steers, Prime	\$23.75-27.50	\$19.50-24.00
Steers, Choice	20.00-24.50	17.50-22.25
Steers, Good	17.00-20.25	15.00-19.25
Steers, Std.	14.50-17.25	—
Cows, Comm.	11.25-12.50	11.00-12.50
Vealers, Gd.-Ch.	19.00-24.00	23.00-27.00*
Vealers, Std.	13.00-19.00	15.00-23.00**
Calves, Gd.-Ch.	14.00-18.00	—
Calves, Std.	12.00-14.00	—
F.&S. Strs., Gd.-Ch.	—	15.25-21.25
F.&S. Strs., Cm.-Md.	—	10.00-16.25
Hogs (180-240#)	17.50-18.50	10.75-12.35
Lambs, Gd.-Ch.	17.50-18.75	17.25-18.25
Ewes, Gd.-Ch.	5.50-6.50	5.25-7.00

(\* Ch.-Pr. in 1955)  
(\*\* Cm.-Gd. in 1955)

## WHOLESALE DRESSED MEATS

	(Chicago)	Dec. 27, 1956	Dec. 27, 1955
Beef, Prime	\$41.00 - 44.00	\$34.50 - 37.00	
Beef, Choice	36.50 - 39.00	32.00 - 35.50	
Beef, Good	32.50 - 35.00	27.00 - 32.00	
Beef, Std.	27.00 - 30.00	—	
Veal, Prime	42.00 - 45.00	41.00 - 44.00	
Veal, Choice	38.00 - 41.00	31.00 - 40.00	
Veal, Good	27.00 - 37.00	26.00 - 36.00	
Lamb, Choice	36.00 - 41.00	31.00 - 37.00	
Lamb, Good	35.00 - 38.00	30.00 - 33.00	
Pork Loin, 8-12#	43.00 - 46.00	28.00 - 30.00	

## COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS

	(Thousands of pounds)	Nov. 1956	Oct. 1956	Nov. 1955	5-Yr. Avg.
Frozen Beef	195,024	142,450	149,925	176,369	
Cured Beef	8,062	6,484	10,288	9,529	
Total Pork	254,057	167,955	306,714	323,054	
Lamb, Mutton	12,099	11,203	9,884	11,934	
All Other Meat	147,016	132,561	133,998	133,444	

## FEDERALLY INSP. SLAUGHTER

	(In thousands)			
	Cattle	Calves	Hogs	Sheep
Nov. 1956 .....	1,807	763	6,559	1,139
Nov. 1955 .....	1,662	700	6,857	1,162
11 mos. 55 .....	18,500	7,238	60,050	13,166
11 mos. 56 .....	17,438	6,866	54,046	13,229

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER



## PSY Changes Asked

A request will be made to the Congress in 1957 for revision and modernization of the Packers and Stockyards Act of 1921, by the American National Livestock Auction Association. The action is believed necessary in light of present-day livestock marketing operations and services. The livestock auction markets have drafted amendments to be presented covering the following changes in the law: (1) definition of an auction market and stockyard on basis of handling livestock in interstate commerce; (2) elimination of the present 20,000 square feet limitation in defining auction markets and stockyards; (3) provision for application of the law to all auction markets, market agencies and dealers selling livestock in interstate commerce without necessity for "posting" now required; (4) administration of the law by the agriculture secretary with advice and assistance of a five-man board of stockmen; (5) bonding of packer buyers as well as dealers and market agencies; (6) change name of the law to Livestock Market Services Act, 1957.

## AIRCRAFT NOISE AND LIVESTOCK

The USDA has interested itself in the problem of what happens to livestock exposed to prolonged jet aircraft noise, and a contract has been made with the U. S. Air Force for a preliminary investigation, using pigs as subjects because those animals grow rapidly and have shorter life cycles than larger ones.

Work so far shows that exposed animals display no outward symptoms and undergo no anatomical changes. Answers are sought specifically to such questions as whether or not prolonged

jet aircraft noise causes a drop in egg or milk production; if meat production from meat-type animals goes down; if feed efficiency decreases, and if any actual physiological changes occur.

Test animals are being exposed to certain jet and other sounds for definite periods of time; researchers are also using a radio-electrocardiograph to measure changes of heart rate in the animals. Outwardly, the pigs do not appear to be affected by the noise. Only visible reactions are a momentary pause in eating, an occasional start or gentle waggle of the ears. After slaughter, tests are made to determine if any organic changes occur in pigs as a result of sound exposure, with ear structure coming under special scrutiny. In tests so far with 12 animals slaughtered after sound experiments, zoologists have found no difference in anatomical structure of the ear, thyroid or adrenal glands.

## WANTS END TO CCC BUYING

An end to the government's practice of buying and storing surplus farm commodities was urged by President Charles B. Shuman of the American Farm Bureau Federation at the group's convention. He said "farmers are hurt rather than helped by the accumulation of government storage stocks of farm commodities." He recommended surplus be disposed of as swiftly as possible, either by selling at reduced prices or giving to the needy at home or abroad. Then when the surplus is wiped out, the government should not buy any more, he said. He declared flexible supports and soil bank legislation were steps in the right direction but were not the long-range answer.

## NEW FEEDING MOVIE

A full-color, 38-minute documentary motion picture report on modern cattle feeding methods in the United States and Canada is available on request from the American Cyanamid Company. The movie is entitled "Design for Better Beef;" through it, the company's animal feed department wants to help cattlemen reduce the estimated \$164 million annual loss caused by disease, etc.

Copies of the film to be used at meetings or in classrooms may be obtained by writing the company at 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York 20, N.Y.

## FEWER HOGS EXPECTED

About 4 per cent fewer hogs are expected to come to slaughter in the spring and early summer of 1957 than in the like periods this year as a result of a reduction in the fall pig crop. If farmers stick to present breeding intentions, the 1957 spring crop will be cut about 2 per cent below 1956 and 9 per cent below average, which would mean a slightly lower level of pork production in the latter part of 1957.

## CARE BRINGS RESULTS AGAINST X-DISEASE

Hyperkeratosis, or X-disease of cattle, has been nearly eliminated since the cause of this ailment has been determined, according to the North Dakota Agricultural College Extension Service. Three precautions are now being stressed in recommendations for handling the hyperkeratosis problem: Keep cattle away from machinery so they cannot lick or come into contact with oil and grease; Keep grease containers and oil drainage areas away from cattle; If motor oil is used in cattle rubbing devices, be careful not to use the "break-in" oil from new motors, or oil from machines in which an upper-cylinder lubricant has been added to the gasoline.

## ASK REBUILDING OF FENCE ON MEXICO-CALIFORNIA LINE

The California Board of Agriculture urged Congress to rebuild the boundary livestock fence between California and Mexico to prevent Mexican cattle drifting across the boundary and spreading Texas fever among California herds.

Dr. James E. Stuart, chief of the animal industry division of the California department of agriculture, said the fence is in serious disrepair. He said 52 miles of five-strand barbed wire fence would be required and would cost about \$208,000.

## REFERENDUM RESULTS

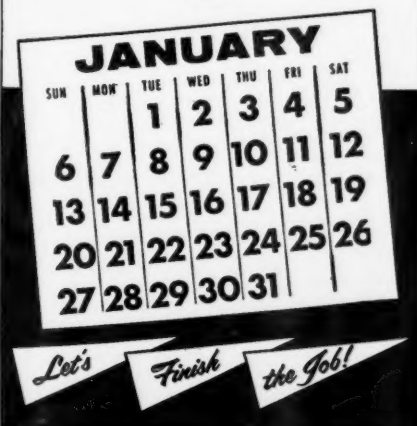
In the corn referendum, 163,227 farmers, or 38.8 per cent of the 421,101 votes reported, favored acreage allotments and 257,874, or 61.2 per cent favored base acreages. This means that the acreage allotment program will continue for corn. In the cotton referendum, 92.4 per cent of the growers voting approved marketing quotas for the 1957 upland cotton crop, and 95.4 per cent approved them for extra long staple cotton. For peanuts, 93.6 of the growers voting approved continuation of marketing quotas for another three years. In the rice referendum, 91 per cent of the votes approved quotas for the 1957 crop.

## PACKER FIGURES RELEASED

A report on earnings shows increases for most packers this year. Geo. A. Hormel & Co. net earnings rose from \$3.7 million in fiscal 1955 to \$5.1 in 1956. Wilson & Co. indicated net earnings of about \$7 million, as compared with \$4.5 million in 1955. Armour net income will be about \$14 million compared with about \$10 million in 1955. Cudahy Packing Co. had a net operating profit of \$5.2 which was increased by a special gain to a total of \$6.1 million for the year—substantially up from 1955. Swift reported the only decrease so far, \$8.8 million from the 1955 profit, with the 1956 net at \$14 million.

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